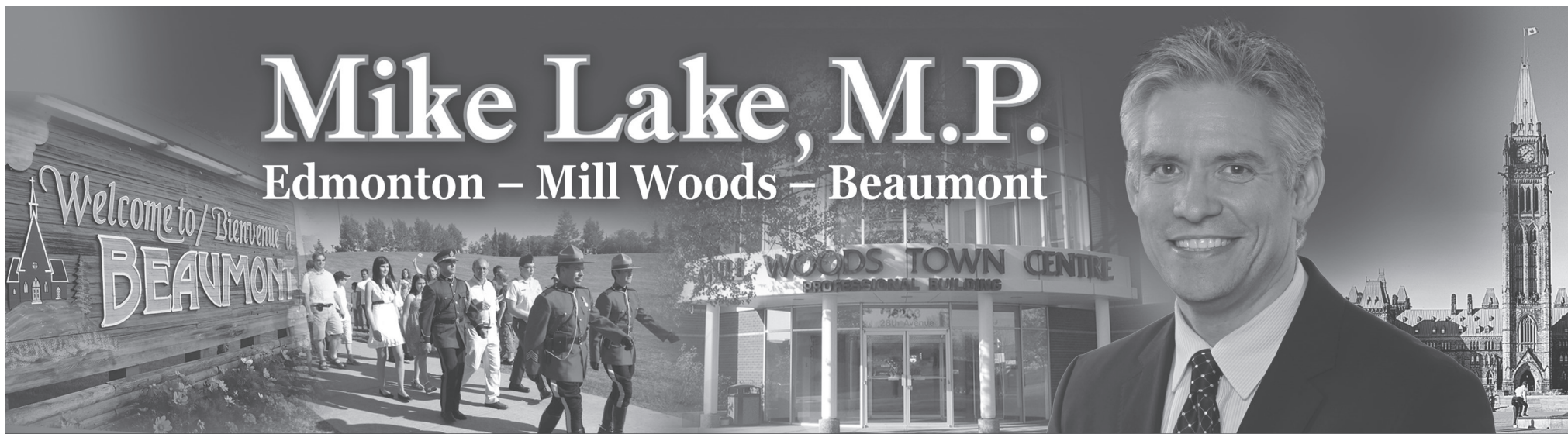


Mike Lake, M.P.

Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont



YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Volume 24, Fall 2014

Dear Constituents,

“After-tax middle-class incomes in Canada — substantially behind in 2000 — now appear to be higher than in the United States.” This is what the New York Times wrote earlier this year, as the rest of the world takes note of Canada’s success in creating jobs, growth and prosperity for Canadians.

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton added, in a speech at the New America Foundation, “Canadian middle class incomes are now higher than in the United States. They are working fewer hours for more pay, enjoying a stronger safety net, living longer on average, and facing less income inequality.”

As we move toward a balanced federal budget in 2015, significantly ahead of most of the rest of the developed world, Canada possesses a substantial economic competitive advantage. As your elected Member of Parliament, I am proud of the fact that we have all shared in the hard work that has brought us to this point.

An important part of this process is communication. Please take the time to share your thoughts with me regarding the issues that are important to you and your family. You can reach me via e-mail, Facebook or Twitter, or fill out the feedback form on page 3 of this newsletter. I look forward to hearing from you!

Mike



Mike and his son, Jaden, handing out flags to constituents at Edmonton-Ellerslie MLA Naresh Bhardwaj’s pancake breakfast on Canada Day.

One Canada, One National Economy: Modernizing Internal Trade in Canada

Ottawa

On August 20, 2014, Industry Minister James Moore unveiled the federal government’s proposal to work with the provinces and territories in breaking down Canada’s internal trade barriers that harm the national economy and hurt Canadian businesses, workers and consumers.

One Canada, One National Economy: Modernizing Internal Trade in Canada lays out guiding principles for modernizing the current Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT).

“Trade is vital to our national economy and to the well-being of all Canadians. Canada is a free-trading nation; however, progress on internal trade has not kept up with our government’s recent success with international trade agreements. Our proposal unveiled today aims to update the Agreement on Internal Trade to benefit Canadian businesses, workers and consumers nationwide. I look forward to continuing to work with the provinces and territories to open trade within Canada,” said Minister Moore.

Eliminating internal trade barriers would create jobs, boost economic growth and strengthen Canada’s internal market by helping to move goods and services more freely across Canada.

“The free movement of goods, services, people and investment within Canada is essential to our country’s economic health. We welcome the federal

(Continued on page 2)

Temporary Foreign Worker Program Aims to Improve Canada’s Labour Market

Ottawa

There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) lately, provoked in part by commendable media reports highlighting abuses of the program. Our government is fundamentally overhauling the TFWP to tackle such abuses, and to prevent the program from distorting Canada’s labour market. Our goal is to mend the program, not end it. But as we do so, it is important to understand the facts, and dispel some myths.

According to a commonly held view, the program is mainly about allowing employers to hire large numbers of people from abroad to fill low-skilled positions at below Canadian wage rates, often leading to the exploitation of vulnerable, indentured foreign workers. This betrays a complete misunderstanding of the TFWP.

First off, what we call the TFWP is, in fact, a wide array of different programs developed over time, the only common aspect of which is the authorization of foreign nationals to work in Canada. Most “temporary foreign workers” do not actually come at the request of employers to fill specific jobs, but rather as part of reciprocal agreements that we have with other countries that in turn allow millions of Canadians to pursue opportunities abroad. Of the 221,000 foreign workers who entered Canada last year, only 55,000 came to fill low-skilled jobs at the request of employers, and 62% of those were farm workers.

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Page Two: More on Modernizing Internal Trade in Canada, More on the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, Canada’s Steps to Ending Child Marriage, The Canada Learning Bond.

Page Three: Christmas Open House Invitation, Constituent Roundtables, Riding Boundary Changes for 2015 Federal Election

Page Four: Image Gallery and Contact Information.

Temporary Foreign Worker Program Aims to Improve Canada’s Labour Market

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This is underscored by the fact that most of the top source countries for the TFWP are wealthy, advanced economies. The United States, United Kingdom, France and Australia are amongst the top five source countries for foreign workers in Canada, while Germany and Ireland are also in the top ten.

Contrary to the myth, a typical temporary foreign worker is in fact an American lawyer working on a transaction here thanks to a NAFTA visa, a French scientist doing advanced research at a Canadian university on a research work permit, or a young Aussie on her gap year working at a ski hill, as part of a reciprocal Youth Mobility Program.

Secondly, the TFWP does not allow foreign workers to be paid less than Canadians working in similar jobs. Employers who seek to bring in workers from abroad must first certify that they have tried to hire Canadians at the prevailing median wage rate for the job in that area (which is by definition above the starting wage rate), and that no qualified Canadians have applied. If foreign workers are approved and enter Canada, they have exactly the same protections as Canadians under provincial and federal laws.

Thirdly, the number of foreign workers in Canada has been massively exaggerated. According to a recent poll, Canadians believe that 12% of our labour force is made up of TFWs, when the real number is 2%. Many believe that most temporary foreign workers are low-skilled service industry employees. But in fact, only 0.21% of Canada’s workforce is made up of temporary foreign workers in such low-skilled jobs, and only 2% of Canada’s 1.1 million restaurant workers are temporary foreign workers. This is why Statistics Canada has said that the program’s impact on unemployment is “negligible.”

Setting these facts straight is not to diminish very real problems that exist in the program, but rather to put those problems in context. Indeed, we are concerned with growing evidence that some businesses have abused the program by resorting to foreign workers without making adequate efforts to hire Canadians, allowing what is supposed to be a last resort to become a business model in some cases. Such practices have apparently resulted in distortions of the labour market in certain sectors and regions.

Several recent studies have come to this conclusion, suggesting that over-reliance on the program’s general low-skilled stream has prevented wages from rising in some low-paid occupations in parts of Western Canada, and may have reduced labour mobility. For example, overall median wages in Alberta have gone up by an average of 31% since 2006, but wages in the province’s food services sector, a heavy user of the program, increased by only 8%. This kind of distortion is unacceptable.

Former Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney put it well last year when he said “The intent of the government’s review is to ensure that this is used for transition, for those higher-skilled gaps that exist and can hold our economy back.”

That’s precisely why we have spent two years consulting on a bold package of reforms to ensure that Canadian workers come first, and that employers respond to labour shortages through higher wages, while allowing the program to continue as a last and limited resort.

For more information, please visit www.esdc.gc.ca

One Canada, One National Economy: Modernizing Internal Trade in Canada

(Continued from page 1)

government’s plan to strengthen the Agreement on Internal Trade and call upon all governments to work together to ensure its success,” said John Manley, President and CEO of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives.

The Government of Canada will continue to work with the provinces and territories to reform the Agreement on Internal Trade, bringing it in line with the current global economic reality.



For more information, please visit www.ic.gc.ca/internaltrade

The Canada Learning Bond: Help for Modest-Income Families

Ottawa

The Canada Learning Bond, through registered education savings plans (RESP), is an easy way for modest-income families to start saving early for their children and make post-secondary education a reality.

The Canada Learning Bond is \$500 that the federal government deposits into an RESP. A child may then be eligible for another \$100 per year until he or she is 15 years old, up to a maximum of \$2,000. Parents, or primary caregivers, do not have to contribute any of their own money to receive the Canada Learning Bond.

To be eligible, the child’s family must receive the National Child Benefit Supplement and children must also meet the following criteria:

- Have been born after December 31, 2003
- Have a birth certificate
- Have a Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Be a beneficiary under an RESP
- Reside in Canada

The Department of Social Development also provides the Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) to families when contributions are made to an RESP.

Under this Grant, the federal government adds between 20 and 40 percent of the contribution to the RESP, depending on income. The basic CESG provides 20 cents on every dollar you contribute, up to a maximum of \$500 on an annual contribution of \$2,500.

To find out whether you and your child qualify for the Canada Learning Bond, and other federal education savings initiatives, visit CanLearn.ca today.

Canada’s Steps to Ending Child Marriage



Ottawa

On July 4, 2014, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird announced that Canada will contribute \$20M over two years to UNICEF towards ending child, early and forced marriage.

The UNICEF project aims to accelerate the movement to end child marriage in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Yemen and Zambia, by supporting initiatives and strengthening political support to end the practice. Canada has played a leading role on the international stage on issues surrounding the health of women and girls.

Canada spearheaded the creation of the International Day of the Girl Child in 2011, and the first International Day of the Girl Child took place on October 11, 2012. Its first theme, early forced marriage, brought attention and increased international focus to the issue.

In May 2013, Canada co-sponsored the United Nations Population Fund’s ‘Too Young to Wed’ photo exhibit, which depicts powerful images and videos from around the world that put a human face on child, early and forced marriage, including through stories from affected girls in their own voices.

In September 2013, Canada led the first stand-alone resolution on child, early and forced marriage at the 24th session of the UN Human Rights Council. And in October 2013, Canada and Zambia co-led the first stand-alone resolution on child, early and forced marriage at the UN General Assembly.

In October 2013, Minister Baird announced \$5 million in new money to tackle the causes of child, early and forced marriage around the world. Initial programming has been undertaken in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Somalia, and Zimbabwe. Canada is also committed to continuing education programs aimed at young girls and maternal health.

To see more on Canada’s commitment, please visit www.international.gc.ca/rights-droits/childmarriage-mariageenfants



Come and celebrate the holiday season with us at Mike’s annual Christmas Open House hosted at the Mill Woods Assembly Café.

You’re Invited to our 9th Annual Christmas Open House

WHEN: Thursday, December 18th—3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

WHERE: Mill Woods Assembly Café, 2225-66 Street (West Entrance)

We hope to see you there!

Constituent Roundtables—Staying Connected

Edmonton

Mike regularly holds roundtable constituent meetings. Generally attended by ten to fifteen constituents, each meeting is designed to facilitate discussion about issues specifically raised by those at the table. In contrast to a typical town hall meeting, the roundtable, with its smaller group format, allows for greater interaction among the participants.

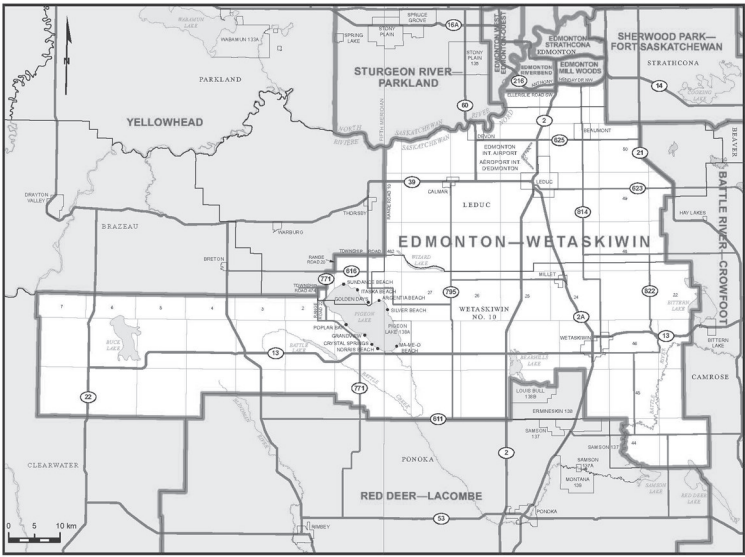
These roundtables are the most effective way for the greatest number of constituents to express their opinions, hear the views of their neighbours, and learn more about what the federal government is doing for Canadians. Mike has found these meetings to be invaluable, helping to inform him about the issues most important to the people he represents. At the same time, he has been encouraged by the level of public debate between the individuals who come to the meetings, often from different backgrounds and with different points of view.

If you’d like to attend a meeting, please call the constituency office at 780-495-2149.



Mike chats with constituents at one of more than 200 roundtables he’s held as a Member of Parliament.

To learn more about Mike’s work, please visit:
www.MikeLake.ca



A map of the new riding boundaries for Edmonton– Wetaskiwin.

Mike to run in Edmonton – Wetaskiwin in 2015

Edmonton

For the 2015 federal election, Alberta will be going from 28 to 34 seats. This change in the number of seats has resulted in a significant redrawing of the electoral boundary map, especially for the constituents of Edmonton - Mill Woods - Beaumont (E-MW-B).

On the new map (left), Edmonton - Mill Woods will become it’s own constituency with a southern boundary at the Anthony Henday. A new riding called Edmonton - Wetaskiwin includes part of E-MW-B south of the Henday, adding substantial parts of Leduc County and Wetaskiwin County, plus Leduc, Beaumont, Wetaskiwin, Devon, Calmar and Millet.

In June, Mike won the Conservative nomination for Edmonton-Wetaskiwin, where he will run in 2015. His decision to run there was based on the fact that it is the area in which he currently lives and includes the community of Devon, in which he grew up.

For more information on the riding boundary changes, please visit www.elections.ca

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA: MIKE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Mike wants to ensure that the information in the newsletter is helpful to you.
Please share your thoughts on what you like and/or how we can improve it.

How would you rate the overall performance of the Canadian Government?

Excellent

☐

Good

☐

Fair

☐

Poor

☐

How would you rate Mike’s performance as your Member of Parliament?

Excellent

☐

Good

☐

Fair

☐

Poor

☐

Please complete the survey and send it back to our office, *postage free*. Feel free to fold and tape to conceal personal information, but please do not staple.

Name:

Address:

City:

Province: Postal Code:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

- Our offices are here to be of service to you.
- We regularly help constituents:*
- Navigate their way through federal government departments and services;
 - Obtain Canadian flags and pins for travel abroad;
 - Receive Congratulatory Certificates for milestone birthdays and anniversaries from the Member of Parliament, the Prime Minister, the Governor General, and Her Majesty the Queen;
 - Get answers to immigration questions; and
 - Find information on government policies and procedures.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with your comments or concerns and we would be more than happy to assist you.

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Mike Speaks at BIO International

In June, Mike, in his role as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, attended the BIO International Convention in San Diego.



Beaumont Celebrates Canada Day

Mike’s daughter, Jenae, pins a Canadian flag on the uniform of Beaumont RCMP Sgt. Kevin Kunetzki on Canada Day.



\$50,000 raised for Autism Society

In June, Mike hosted his annual Pancake Breakfast in support of the Autism Society of Edmonton Area, which was a huge success.



Mike attends MNCH Summit

In May, Mike joined MP Lois Brown and other colleagues at the Prime Minister’s high-level Global Summit on maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) in Toronto.



‘Heart of a Champion’ Award

Mike, along with Janet Ryan Newell (L), presents Candise Sieben with the Crossroads Heart of a Champion award for her 20 years of service as a foster-parent.



Mike tours Edmonton Food Bank

In August, Mike met with Marjorie Bencz for a tour of the Edmonton Food Bank, which does tremendous work to feed those in need in the Edmonton area.

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