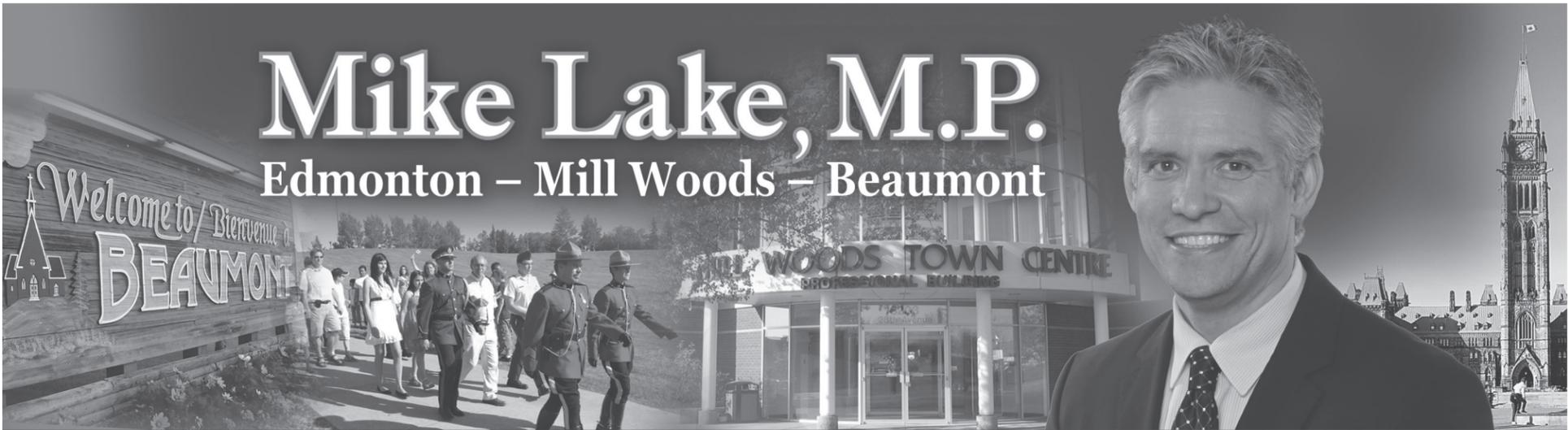


Mike Lake, M.P.

Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont



YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Volume 26, Spring 2015

Dear Constituents,

As summer approaches, it is my pleasure to connect with all of you once again through this newsletter.

On these pages, you'll find information about our new Family Tax Plan - a suite of initiatives designed to allow Canadian families to keep more of your money to spend on your family's priorities. At the same time, we're working hard to ensure that we get our budget balanced, so that we can protect, in the long term, programs and services important to all Canadians.

You'll also find articles on Canada's continuing leadership, saving the lives of young children and their mothers around the world, as well as new federal support for victims of family violence.

As always, I'd appreciate it if you'd 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 speaking with Bill Gates, Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, about Canada's role in Global Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Development.

Bringing Tax Relief to Canadian Families

Ottawa

This past October, Prime Minister Stephen Harper introduced the Family Tax Plan, which will provide benefits to 4 million Canadian families this year. Low and middle-income families will receive two-thirds of the overall benefits provided by this package.

Here are four ways our Government is helping hardworking Canadians this tax season:

First, we established the new Family Tax Cut. This measure is aimed at couples with children under the age of 18, where one spouse is in a higher income bracket than the other. The Family Tax Cut can lower a family's overall tax bill, providing tax relief of up to a maximum of \$2,000.

Second, we have enhanced the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB). Our Government is increasing the UCCB for children under age six. As of January 1, 2015, parents will receive a benefit of \$160 per month for each child under the age of six - up from \$100 per month. Parents will now receive \$1,920 per child, per year.

We are also expanding the UCCB to children aged six through 17. As of January 1, 2015, parents will receive a benefit of \$60 per month for children aged six through 17. Parents will receive a total of \$720 per child, per year.

(Continued on page 2)

Standing Up for Global Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Ottawa

Here in Canada, we are fortunate that our families have access to the resources needed to live happy, healthy and productive lives. Unfortunately, this is not the case for many around the world.

Things such as clean water and vaccinations—which we often take for granted—are desperately needed in many regions of the world. And without them, the health of countless human beings lies in jeopardy.

This need for basic provisions is magnified when dealing with expecting mothers and newborn children. Without adequate health care services many mothers and children die each year. The most recent data tells us that each year millions of children die before their 5th birthday and hundreds of thousands of women die in pregnancy.

Because no mother should have to choose between herself and her baby, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and our Conservative Government made maternal and child health our top development priority.

Following the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals in 2000, we helped push this issue back into the international spotlight with the groundbreaking Muskoka Initiative. Thanks to the Muskoka Initiative, and subsequent global action, maternal and child mortality rates are declining.

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Standing Up for Global Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

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Between 2010 and 2013, Canada helped provide 5.8 million children with life-saving vaccines, over 180 million children with vitamin A, and 2 million pregnant women with supplements to help ensure healthier pregnancies.

Helping stop these preventable deaths is not only a moral imperative, but something at the very heart of our shared Canadian values.

More recently, Prime Minister Harper hosted the co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates, in Ottawa to renew the call for global political leadership and sustained financial commitments for this important issue. The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to reaffirm our Government's commitment to support immunization as a key pillar of Canada's MNCH strategy by announcing new investments toward improving access to vaccines for mothers and children.

Canadians across the country can be proud of the difference we are making in the world and the work Canadians do every day to save lives. We are within arm's reach of our goal of eliminating these preventable deaths.

Thanks to our hard work and the hard work of our international partners, we are taking big steps towards achieving that goal.

For more information, please visit mnch.international.gc.ca

Bringing Tax Relief to Canadian Families

(Continued from page 1)

Next, we are increasing the Child Care Expense Deduction dollar limits by 1,000 for the 2015 tax year. You or your spouse may be able to claim a deduction for expenses incurred for someone to look after your child so that one of you can work or go to school.

Lastly, we have doubled the Children's Fitness Tax Credit from \$500 to \$1,000 per child, starting in the 2014 tax year.

Not only has our Government lowered taxes, we are also making it easier to file your taxes.

Four in five Canadians are now experiencing the ease of filing online. Many are receiving their tax refund in as little as 8 days when using direct deposit.

That's our Government putting more of your money back in your pocket, and delivering real results to hard-working Canadians.

As Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said, our Government is fulfilling our promise to balance the federal budget. We are now in a position to fulfill our promise to help Canadian families balance theirs.



To learn more, please visit www.cra-arc.gc.ca

Supporting Victims of Violence

Ottawa



On February 20, Minister of Health Rona Ambrose announced a 10-year, \$100 million investment to prevent, detect and combat family violence and child abuse, just one of the many ways the Government of Canada is delivering on its commitment to stand up for victims.

Family violence is an important issue that unfortunately affects many Canadians across the country.

"Family violence has very serious and lasting impacts on the health and mental wellbeing of those who are victimized by it. Our Government is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all Canadians and will continue to stand up for victims of violence," said Minister Ambrose.

"It is my hope that through this investment we will be able to better support victims of violence and their children, wherever they live, so that they may heal and rebuild their lives toward a healthier future."

Long-term exposure to family violence can have devastating health affects on victims including, substance abuse, mental illness, suicidal behaviours, and chronic illnesses such as heart disease. The impacts are far reaching, affecting communities, workplaces, and society as a whole.

This investment will support victims of violence and their children through a multi-faceted approach that will:

- Better equip health professionals with the information and training they need to safely support victims of domestic violence and child abuse;
- Improve the health and well-being of victims of violence in their communities;
- Enhance access to mental health counselling for victims of violence; and
- Support and enhance organizations and partnerships that provide integrated services to victims of violence.

This investment will cover a wide variety of programming across sectors, designed to support victims' physical and mental well-being. Examples may range from peer support groups to using different types of physical activity to aid in victims' recovery and healing from violence.

The first project to be supported through this investment is a \$4.1 million project over three years to develop pan-Canadian guidance and education materials that will help health professionals better support the needs of victims of violence.

This project will be led by the Preventing Violence Across the Lifespan (PreVAiL) research network and the BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health.

To see more on Canada's commitment, please visit www.hc-sc.gc.ca



New Funding for Alberta Trades Education Program

Devon

On March 5, the Honorable Michelle Rempel, Minister of State for Western Economic Development, announced a federal investment of \$1,565,000, through the Western Diversification Program (WDP), to enable the Northern Lights School Division No. 69 (NLSD) to enhance its Trade Exposure Program (TEP).

Federal funding will go towards renovations, upgrades and site preparations for the service rig training centre.

Over 1,000 students in Aboriginal communities in Northern Alberta will have access to skills development and training opportunities.

As a result, this project will help increase the capacity and skills of the workforce, generate employment, as well as increase small- and medium-sized enterprises' (SME) productivity and growth.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Mike joined Minister Rempel at the Funding Announcement.

Mike Engages University Students Across Canada

Edmonton

Throughout the winter, university professors from across Canada have invited Mike to speak in class lectures.

Using video clips from interviews and news stories centred around his 19-year-old son, Jaden, who has autism, Mike's presentation is about expecting more of the people around us. His goal is to change the way we think about all people - our abilities, our challenges and the unique contributions that we can all make to the great benefit of our entire society.

The outreach has been a huge success, engaging thousands of students from eight different universities. Response has been overwhelmingly positive, with students describing the conversations as "inspiring", "eye opening" and "truly touching".



Mike has spoken to thousands of students at schools across Canada as part of his university outreach.

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



Mike discusses issues and ideas with constituents at one of the hundreds of roundtables he has hosted as a Member of Parliament.

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.

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

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

As we head towards an election later this year, which three federal issues are most important to you?

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.

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

9225 - 28 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB
T6N 1N1

Phone: 780-495-2149
Toll-Free: 1-866-488-0919
Fax: 780-495-2147
E-mail: Mike.Lake@parl.gc.ca

PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE

980 Valour Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Phone: 613-995-8695
Toll-Free: 1-866-670-0966
Fax: 613-995-6465
E-mail: Mike.Lake@parl.gc.ca

WWW.MIKELAKE.CA
Twitter: @MikeLakeMP
Facebook: MikeLakeMP



Mike Tours Biointerfaces Lab

In March, Dr. John Brennan, the Director of the Biointerfaces Institute at McMaster University, showed Mike some of the high-tech equipment and machines in the lab.



Exploring 151 Front Street

Mike and Bill Sandiford, President and Board Chairman of the Canadian Network Operators Consortium (CNOC), visited the Canadian Telecommunications Hub in Toronto.



A Very Special 100th Birthday

One of Mike's constituents, Kedarnath Vaish, spent his 100th birthday on Parliament Hill, where Mike gave his family a tour of historic Centre Block.



Mike Visits Service Canada

In December, Mike met with the Edmonton Millbourne Service Canada team, including Marilyn Mackay (L) to discuss the services available to constituents at this branch.



World-class Research Facility

Canadian researcher Molly Shoicet, who recently won the L'Oreal/UNESCO *'For Women in Science Award'*, spoke with Mike about her work on regenerative medicine.



Jaden Meets Temple Grandin

Mike introduced his son Jaden, who has autism, to Temple Grandin at the Geneva Centre for Autism's International Symposium in Toronto, after his keynote address.

FOLD ALONG LINE AND SEAL

No Postage Required



Hon. Mike Lake, P.C., M.P.
980 Valour Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6