

Summer 2014



Linda Duncan

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT // EDMONTON – STRATHCONA
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Greetings!

I hope you are enjoying a long awaited summer. I look forward to seeing you at my summer events August 13 and 27 (see below), at one of Edmonton’s summer festivals, the farmer’s market, or on the valley trails.

Many constituents and Albertans across our province have contacted me to voice concerns about cuts to Canada Post and CBC, the temporary foreign worker program, failed support for our veterans and concerns about affordable retirement and the unfair Elections Act. Thanks everyone for speaking out. While concerns remain that voter rights may still be diminished, the outpouring of voices did result in the government accepting some amendments.

I was pleased to host a number of Town Halls including with Victoria M.P. Murray Rankin, Official Opposition Critic for Pensions and National Revenue. Discussion focused on proposals for gradual expansion of the Canada



With my NDP colleague Alexandrine Latendresse (sitting at the table to my right) and election workers on Election Day in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine.

Pension Plan towards eventual doubling of benefits. This change has been supported by most provincial governments, the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP), the Canadian Labour Congress and New Democrats to ensure retirement in dignity.

I also hosted a Public Forum on trade policy with Vancouver Kingsway M.P. Don

Davies, and a series of meetings on veterans’ issues with Sackville-Eastern Shore M.P., Peter Stoffer.

In May, I was honoured again to participate in a Canadian parliamentary mission to Ukraine to monitor the presidential election. It was inspiring to witness first-hand the significant voter turnout, despite the national turmoil. Many Ukrainians expressed to me their profound appreciation for the support given to them by Canadians.

As ever, I welcome hearing from you on any federal issues or concerns.

Have a great summer.



MP SUMMER EVENTS

Wednesday, Aug. 13: **DESSERT NIGHT**
Blues Java Bar, 5010 106 Ave

Wednesday, Aug. 27: **ANNUAL MP BBQ**
Ritchie Hall, 7727 98 Street

All welcome – hope to see you there!

HOW I CAN HELP

My staff and I are available to support constituents on federal matters. Below is a guide to the range of services we offer.

My Edmonton office can help with:

- Employment insurance
- Citizenship and immigration
- Canada Pension, Old Age Security (OAS) & Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Student loans
- Meeting with the MP
- Invitations to events
- Veterans Affairs

My Ottawa office can assist with:

- Information on legislation
- Submitting a petition for presentation in the House of Commons
- Accessing information on bills, laws, policies and statements in the House
- Contacting government departments
- Visiting the House of Commons and attending Question Period

GREETINGS & CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

Are you or someone you know celebrating a Birthday? An anniversary? A graduation? I would be pleased to send or facilitate special greetings.

Her Majesty, The Queen

Anniversaries: 60 years or more, at five year intervals.

Birthdays: 100 years or more.
(Six to eight weeks notice required.
Requests must include a photocopy of the birth or wedding certificate.)

Linda F. Duncan, MP

Any anniversary, birthday, graduation, new citizenship or other occasion.

Governor General

Anniversaries: 50 or more

Birthdays: 90 or more
(Both at five year intervals. Six to eight weeks notice required.)

Prime Minister

Anniversaries: 25 years or more, at five year intervals.

Birthdays: 65 years or more, at five year intervals.
(Six weeks notice required.)

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Information on Government of Canada programs and services can be obtained by dialing toll-free 1-800 0-Canada (1-800-622-6232) TTY: 1-800-926-9105, or visiting a Service Canada Centre.

Visit my website at www.LindaDuncanMP.ca and go to the "Help Desk" section for links to government information including:

- **Filing your Taxes** (Revenue Canada no longer mails out tax forms. You can request one online or call 1-800-959-8281 to order one.)
- **Canada Pension Plan** (CPP, Survivors Benefit and CPP Disability benefit)
- **Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement**
- **Finding a Job** (Job Bank, résumé writing tips, opportunities for youth and students, and job openings with the Federal Government)
- Applying for **Student Loans** and the Repayment Assistance Plan



I recently toured NAIT's Alternative Energy Technology program facilities with director Jim Sandercock. Students in the program learn and do research in a variety of areas including solar, geothermal, wind, and bio fuel.

Western Economic Diversification

In my Portfolio as Official Opposition Critic for Western Diversification, I have decided to focus my attention on our Western based energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors to assess the potential for job creation and economic diversity. Energy retrofits not only save money for homeowners and small businesses, they create well-paying jobs. It is good news Alberta plans to restore its energy retrofit program, as a ghg reduction initiative. The federal government should restore its incentives.

A number of sector sponsored events including the Canadian Wind Energy Association conference held in Calgary, offered sage advice from the sector about opportunities and challenges for the sector, particularly in western Canada. I also participated in the first Annual International Indigenous Energy Summit sponsored by the National Energy Business Centre of Excellence. Speakers from New Zealand, Australia, Norway, Finland, Iceland, United States and Canada in the field of energy shared experiences about Indigenous communities involved in energy development. I discovered many renewable power projects underway in Western Canada and the potential for more affordable, cleaner, sustainable energy supply for small or isolated communities.

My tour of N.A.I.T.'s exciting Alternative Power Technology Program and the job offers for its graduates is evidence of the potential benefit of this sector to our economy. I am pursuing information and advice on measures to help build this sector to diversify our economy and provide job opportunities and welcome any information or ideas you may wish to share.

How to Contact Linda Duncan



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Veillez trouver la version française de ce dépliant sur mon site web.

Unfair Elections Act

After considerable opposition and public pressure the government finally relented and accepted a few of the amendments Canadians demanded. Amendments refused included giving investigators powers needed to crack down on electoral fraud including compelling witness testimony; allowing vouching; ensuring Elections Canada's independence from government; and, fully mandating Elections Canada to encourage all Canadians to vote. Most disturbing was the failure to observe the democratic tradition of consulting opposition members and the public before changing laws ensuring our basic democratic right to vote.

National Food Strategy

The NDP tabled Bill C-539, Promotion of Local Foods requiring the federal Minister of Agriculture to implement a pan-Canadian local foods strategy in consultation with provinces and territories to promote procurement of locally sourced foods including by government institutions including health care and education facilities. If you are interested in contributing to consultations on a national food strategy, please contact my office.

Federal Action on Palliative Care

Far too many Canadians lack access to palliative care services. This leaves families struggling to care for a dying relative, without support to allow the terminally ill to reach death in dignity. This June, NDP motion M-456 calling for a federal strategy to improve Canadians' access to quality palliative care passed with the support of the majority in the House. It will be important for Canadians to hold the government accountable to actually deliver on the actions agreed to including: more support for caregivers, improved quality and consistency of palliative care including high-quality home-based and hospice-based end-of-life-care and attention to the specific needs of aboriginal communities.



Left: Meeting with local representatives from Migrant Canada, a group that advocates for immigrant rights. Below: Speaking at a rally at Canada Place addressing concerns about the TFW program.

Temporary Foreign Workers

I have, along with my colleagues, called for reforms to the temporary foreign worker (TFW) program in response to increasing reliance on TFWs displacing Canadians and allegations of abuse of foreign workers. While most attention has focused on the service sector, I continue to demand government action on behalf of many skilled tradespeople — including ironworkers, welders, boiler makers — laid off and replaced by TFWs or denied job interviews for positions later filled by TFWs. I have spoken with business owners frustrated with the delivery of the program, and also met with TFW support organi-



zations concerned about workers in the service industry.

Despite recent blanket reforms to the program, many workers and employers remain dissatisfied. Until serious gaps in credible employment information are addressed and an active enforcement regime implemented, the controversy is bound to continue.

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Addressing Cyberbullying

Despite agreement that action is needed to protect children from cyberbullying, the New Democrat motion for a national anti-bullying prevention strategy was opposed by the Con-

servatives. A related government bill tabled for a second time has been widely criticized for also expanding warrantless police access to private phone and email information. Recent court rulings suggest these privacy invasions may be struck down as a violation of Charter rights. Regrettably, the government refused pleas by many to just fast track approval of measures impacting children. The bill has yet to pass.



Canada Europe Free Trade Agreement (CETA)

As trade is vital to our economy it is important to seek trade relationships beneficial to Canada. A well-negotiated agreement with the EU has strong potential for many sectors. Significant concerns remain, however, for certain sectors including dairy, pharmaceuticals, local economic development and public services, and for the ability to legislate in the public interest, especially for health, environment, and social policy. CETA remains far from finalized and the government has yet to reveal even the draft text of the agreement. My colleagues and I will continue to seek greater reciprocity and transparency in trade deals with Europe and other nations.

NDP Trade Critic Don Davies came to Edmonton in May for town hall promoting better trade policies.

In the Community

1: I was proud to nominate Hilary Gray, one of the tireless volunteers in McKernan Community, for a Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton award. Hilary won in the Environment category for her work in spearheading the building of the Community's new eco-efficient hall.

2: I am working with a community group led by South Alberta Light Horse to relocate and enhance the Old Strathcona Cenotaph.

3: With Ed McCann in his 1961 Studebaker delivering Meals on Wheels in Edmonton-Strathcona.

4: Celebrating another fantastic Pride Parade in Edmonton. Randall Garrison, MP for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca and the NDP LGBTQ critic (to my right) joined us.

5: With Murray Rankin, NDP critic for Pensions and National Revenue and MP for Victoria, at our town hall on expanding CPP.

6: Congratulating Dylan Breitkreutz who was awarded an NSERC prize to conduct research at the University of Alberta studying tools to track cancer treatment.

7: The NDP's Argenteuil-Papineau-Mirabel MP Mylène Freeman (centre) visited the University of Alberta to talk about her experiences as a young MP. Thanks to Campus St.-Jean students Julia Maksymetz and Matthew Gray for helping with Mylène's visit.

8: With Muriel Stanley Venne & Myrtle Calahasin at Aboriginal Day celebrations in Edmonton.

