



# Linda Duncan

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT // EDMONTON—STRATHCONA

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## Greetings,

As 2013 comes to a close, I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of you for keeping me in touch with the issues that concern you. I am certain you agree it has been an eventful year, from the rail disaster in Lac Mégantic to monumental weather events, notably the catastrophic floods in southern Alberta, to the birth of the Idle No More Movement, to the ongoing Senate debacle.

In October, I marked my fifth anniversary as your Member of Parliament. It remains an honour to serve our very special riding of Edmonton Strathcona. My communications and conversations with you this past year suggest your priorities remain much the same — ensuring affordable, accessible public health care and education, opportunities and credible,



With former Scouter John Yakimishyn, Scouter Christine and her son Logan at the Gold Bar, Capilano and Fulton Place celebration for Community Leagues Day. It was wonderful to visit so many communities who were participating in the annual event.

science based action on the environment and safety. I am sadly receiving increased concerns from families and seniors struggling to make ends meet.

The New Democrat Official Opposition has continued to push for measures to make life more affordable,

from better bank rates to strengthened pension benefits. After opposing many of our proposed reforms, the Government, in its throne speech, committed to only some limited action on consumer issues. Regrettably, there are no promises to reduce credit card rates or gouging bank fees or to strengthen CPP. While the government continues to cut taxes for major corporations, commitments to reduce personal tax remain conditional to a future balanced budget.

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## How to Contact Linda Duncan



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

## 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, OAS & 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 yrs or more, at five year intervals.

**Birthdays:** 65 years or more.

*(Six weeks notice required.)*

## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Information on government programs and services can be obtained by dialing toll-free 1-800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) TTY: 1-800-926-9105, going online to [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca) or visiting a Service Canada Centre.

### Filing your Taxes

Revenue Canada no longer mails out tax forms. Call 1-800-959-8281 to order one. You can also print forms from CRA's website: [www.cra.gc.ca](http://www.cra.gc.ca). The website has a link to a free software package for online filing.

### Student Loans

For information about obtaining student loans: [www.canlearn.ca/eng/loans\\_grants/loans/](http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/loans_grants/loans/)

For the Repayment Assistance Plan: [www.canlearn.ca/eng/loans\\_grants/repayment/help/index.shtml](http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/loans_grants/repayment/help/index.shtml)

### Finding a Job

For information on the Job Bank, on résumé writing tips, opportunities for youth and students, and for job openings with the Federal Government:

[www.servicecanada.gc.ca/jobs](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/jobs)

### Canada Pension Plan

For CPP, Survivors Benefit and CPP Disability benefit:

[www.servicecanada.gc.ca/cpp](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/cpp)

### For Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement

[www.servicecanada.gc.ca/oas](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/oas)

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I am pleased that my new critic portfolio of Western Economic Diversification gives me the opportunity to concentrate on exploring innovative ideas for job creation and emerging economic sectors for sustainable prosperity in the West. I welcome your ideas on opportunities meriting federal support and investment under the Western Innovation and Diversification Programs. (See the website at [www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/16](http://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/16).)

Promising sectors could include energy efficiency or mobilizing our renowned engineering and science expertise, including for health and environmental services. Investment in our post-secondary institutions — a sector currently under threat in Alberta — is essential not only to providing well-paying jobs but also to future economic growth. There would be greater rewards for the economy if, instead of spending taxpayer dollars on promoting the oil sands sector, we could redirect those funds for deploying the cleaner technologies our dedicated researchers have already developed.

Many have called for federal action on rail safety in the wake of the tragic rail disaster in Lac Mégantic and more recently at Gainford. Increasingly, dangerous cargo is shipped right into the heart of Edmonton Strathcona. Along with my colleagues I am pursuing concrete measures to strengthen federal laws and enforcement to reduce these growing risks to our communities and environment.

As always, I look forward to your feedback, inquiries and ideas.



## New Deadlines for Canada Summer Jobs Grant Applications

Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) is a federal grant program available to businesses, community associations and universities. Since my election I have encouraged Service Canada to add a category for community leagues or associations. I continue to push for more funds for our riding given the large number of deserving applicants.

The deadline for Canada Summer Jobs is now earlier than in previous years. **Applications will be available online starting December 2 and must be submitted before January 10, 2014.** The intent is to inform successful applicants sooner and provide more time for recruitment.

More information is available at [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca) (Search "Canada Summer Jobs").

## Make sure you get your benefits and refunds

The Government of Canada has advised it will stop issuing cheques for payments to Canadians in April 2016. All payments for CPP, OAS and GIS, EI, GST rebates, Child Tax Benefit, tax refunds, veterans' pensions and awards will be made by direct deposit and transferred electronically into recipients' bank accounts.

To sign up for direct deposit, you must complete an enrollment form and provide a voided cheque. Forms are available online at [www.directdeposit.gc.ca](http://www.directdeposit.gc.ca) or from federal government offices. Call my office if you have any questions.



In October, Federal Official Opposition Leader Tom Mulcair accepted an invitation from the University of Alberta Students' Union to address a public forum on campus. School of Business professor Andrew Leach also kindly hosted an informative dialogue with experts on energy, water management and democracy.

Above: Tom and I with Engineering Professor Rick Chalaturnyk and Professor Andrew Leach.

## Making your vote count

I was pleased this fall to welcome my colleague Craig Scott MP for Toronto-Danforth, NDP Critic for Democratic Reform, to Edmonton-Strathcona. At an open public meeting cosponsored by Fair Vote Canada he outlined the NDP proposal to make federal elections more accurately reflect the votes cast by Canadians, though a system known as Mixed Member Proportional (MMP). In an MMP system, two principles interact: direct election of local MPs and representation of parties in the legislature in proportion to the percentage of the popular vote they receive. Check Craig's website for more information: [www.craigscott.ndp.ca/democraticreform](http://www.craigscott.ndp.ca/democraticreform).

We have also been imploring the government to table the reforms to the Elections Act called for by Elections Canada to ensure fair elections. Some key needed reforms include greater transparency in telemarketing (robocalls) and strengthened enforcement powers to Elections Canada to investi-



gate and respond to violations including voter fraud.

The New Democrat campaign to abolish the unelected, unaccountable Senate is receiving increasing popular support in the wake of scandals involving Senators' expenses and other rule violations. Many simply believe that despite their useful role in past, it is time to abolish the Senate as it is an outdated institution.

I welcome your ideas for democratic reform — please email me at [linda.duncan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:linda.duncan@parl.gc.ca).

# IN THE COMMUNITY

We are blessed in Edmonton-Strathcona to have a summer filled with wonderful events and festivals. The extended summer break meant I could attend many this fall as well.



Greeting new Canadians at the Citizenship Ceremony at Hawrelak Park.



With Dean Brendan Hokowhitu during the 25th Anniversary celebrations for the U of A's Faculty of Native Studies.



Celebrating the Edmonton Public Library's 100th birthday.



Enjoyed the fun at S.C.O.N.A. seniors event at Ritchie Hall.

Checking out some beautiful paintings at the Strathearn Art Walk, which showcases work of Franco-phone and other local artists.



This year my annual summer barbecue was held at Ottewell Community Hall at the end of August. It was a beautiful evening and, as usual, I enjoyed chatting with constituents.



Reading to an enthusiastic group of students at McKee School during Read-In Week.



Tour of the University of Alberta Nanotechnology labs with post-doctoral fellow Erik Lubber and Chemistry professor Jillian Buriak.