

Member of
Parliament for
Edmonton Strathcona

Linda Duncan

INSIDE: Information for Teachers & Students • GIS Delays • Trade • Senate Reform • Information for Dual US/Canadian Citizens • Photos • Community Businesses



I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have relayed your condolences at the untimely and tragic passing of the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Honourable Jack Layton. I continue to be inspired by Jack's vision in my own work as a parliamentarian.

By the time you read this, the House of Commons will be back for its fall session. I have heard from many of you that you remain concerned about health care, inadequate pensions, lack of available quality, affordable child care and the



In my new role as Official Opposition critic, I was pleased to attend the annual general meeting of the Assembly of First Nations.

high cost of post-secondary education. In the coming months, I and my caucus colleagues will be speaking up for Canadians on these

critical issues. The future of public health care is one area where I would appreciate obtaining your input. As the Federal Government and the Provinces are considering a new Health Care Accord in 2014, I will be seeking opportunities for your engagement and assurances that universal access to public care remains constant.

I know many of you are hoping for real progress on environmental protection, including concrete action on climate change and protection of endangered species. This summer many Albertans expressed disappointment with federal inaction to protect critical boreal caribou habitat from industrial development, putting their survival at

increasing risk. This is both an environmental and an Aboriginal Affairs issue. In my capacity as Official Opposition Critic, I wrote to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development asking for clarification on measures taken by his department to honor Aboriginal treaty rights and to ensure respect for the traditional caribou harvest. I am waiting for his response.

I also had the privilege of participating in a number of Aboriginal gatherings over the summer and gained valuable insights that will assist me in my critic portfolio.

You can visit my website at www.LindaDuncanMP.ca to stay posted on all of these matters as they progress. I had the pleasure of meeting many constituents at our wonderful Edmonton summer festivals and at my Meet-Your-MP events. I appreciate the many thoughtful comments and insights you have shared on federal issues that matter to you and will be working diligently to make sure your voices are heard in Ottawa.

Best wishes, *Linda*

In the House This Fall

The Harper government announced its intent to retable many of its bills which either failed to pass in the last Parliament or that they promised but never delivered.

New Crime Bill

Instead of re-tabling their crime bills one at a time the government have introduced one omnibus crime bill. While this approach could have the effect

of limiting time for full debate or public input, it does allow the opportunity for full costing and crime reduction analysis as long demanded by New Democrats. Also as American authorities are reversing their extensive prison expansion as a failed, costly approach, we will also be pressuring the Harper government to reconsider their regressive and generally ineffective measures.

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How I can help

My staff and I work hard to ensure our community has a strong voice in Ottawa. Please contact us for help.

My Edmonton office:

- Employment insurance
- Citizenship and immigration
- Canada pension and taxes
- Student loans
- Meeting with the MP
- Invitations to events
- Special messages for birthdays and anniversaries (see below)

My Ottawa office:

- 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, including our office, and attending Question Period

Greetings and Congratulatory Messages

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

Her Majesty, The Queen

Anniversaries: 60 years or more **Birthdays:** 100 years or more (Three months notice required)
Requests must include a photocopy of the birth or wedding certificate

Prime Minister

Anniversaries: 25 yrs or more **Birthdays:** 75 years or more (Nine weeks notice required)

Governor General

Anniversaries: 50th–59th **Birthdays:** 90th–99th (Nine weeks notice required)

Linda F. Duncan, MP

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

If you need information on government programs and services, call toll free 1-800-0 Canada (1-800-622-6232) TTY: 1-800-926-9105, or visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca or visit a Service Canada Centre.

How to Contact Linda Duncan



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Do you have dual Canadian/U.S. Citizenship?

Recently, we have been hearing from constituents with dual Canadian/U.S. citizenship expressing concerns over the implications of the introduction of the U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and the Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts Act (FBAR).

The laws were enacted to address perceived tax abuse by Americans through the use of offshore accounts. The laws require individual taxpayers and foreign financial institutions to report to the IRS detailed information on back accounts.

For those affected, we have additional information available at our office.



With Dr. Greg Taylor, Dean of Science, at the opening of the new Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science, a state-of-the-art 50,000-square-metre facility specifically designed to foster an interdisciplinary approach to research, teaching and discovery. The centre is being considered for silver LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification as it was built to improve performance in energy savings, water efficiency and carbon-dioxide emission reduction and improved indoor environmental quality.

Educational Programs & Resources

Did you know that the Parliament of Canada offers a comprehensive collection of programs and classroom resources about the Government of Canada for students and teachers?

You can access both print and online material by visiting www.parl.gc.ca/education, by calling toll-free 1-866-599-4999 or by emailing info@parl.gc.ca.

For example, a Glossary of Parliamentary Terms is designed for younger students and includes terms commonly used in Parliament.

For grades 4 to 8 students, frequently asked questions are answered about the Senate of Canada and Canadian House of Commons and the process for law making.

For students in grades 7 to 12, Youth Connection provides access to programs, products and services linking youth to Parliament (www.parl.gc.ca/youth).

Discover How Canadians Govern Themselves is a new web resource offering interactive games, videos, images, puzzles and quizzes explaining Canada's systems of government and how Parliament works (www.parl.gc.ca/discover).

Students should also consider applying to the Parliamentary Page Program to experience government first hand. Talk to your high school guidance counsellor for more information.

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Trade

Equally meriting public attention are the looming new trade bills including trade agreements with Europe, Ukraine and possibly with additional South American nations.

New Democrats have raised significant concerns with potential impacts for the Canadian economy from the proposed trade deal with the E.U. Under this proposed deal Europeans will be able to compete at the provincial and municipal levels for contracts.

Canadians who have been strong supporters of human rights and democracy for the evolving governments of the Ukraine may wish to closely examine that agreement to ensure that labour and human rights are made binding measures. I welcome input for the debate on these and other trade agreements.

Democratic Reform

The government has once again promised to bring forward changes to seat distribution, a measure they have long discussed but taken no action



At the swearing in ceremony as a Member for the 41st session of Parliament.

on. I am certain my fellow Albertans agree that there should be additional MPs for Alberta as our population expands. Equally important are proposed changes to the Senate, including term limits and elections.

In the last parliament the majority of MPs supported the New Democrat motion calling for a public debate on the future of the unelected senate and on the introduction of a system of proportional representation. In other words, alternative more effective means of ensuring that decision makers are democratically chosen and representative of all regions. I welcome your views on this.

Budget Update

I am reassured that the Harper government has expressed openness to recommendations by New Democrats on the importance of balancing job creation and reducing the massive deficit.

While we must take care that future generations not inherit a massive debt, we also have a duty to address growing unemployment and underemployment rates, particularly for youth, immigrants and aboriginals.

The solution is not in the creation of temporary, part time or temporary foreign worker positions. It is encouraging that the

Harper government is finally considering our recommendation for some additional investment in repairing aging municipal infrastructure and to bring long awaited minimum services to Aboriginal communities.

Bills Upcoming

This fall, we expect the government to introduce a number of bills. Included will be additional trade agreements, including one with the Ukraine, which will be of great interest to residents of Alberta.

We also expect to see a bill which will make changes to the Senate by adding additional seats. I support any additional seats for Alberta, which reflect our growing population. I am also looking forward to a full and productive agenda for the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

Again, stay tuned to my website, www.LindaDuncanMP.ca for updates on upcoming bills and other federal matters.

Celebrating the WISEST

This summer, I was pleased to attend the Celebration of Learning for an innovative program at the University of Alberta. W.I.S.E.S.T. (Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science & Technology) offers summer research jobs to high school students who have completed grade eleven. The program allows students to explore non-traditional careers as paid research assistants.

At the celebration, I was delighted to discover students from McNally and JH Picard High School who were excited to share their research results. Congratulations to all the WISEST students and kudos to the University of Alberta and program sponsors for enabling our youth to explore alternative careers while working alongside leading experts.



At the WISEST Celebration of Learning with JH Picard student, Katarina. Photo by Braden Bruce.

In Edmonton Strathcona

Right and below: Thanks to so many of you who came out and enjoyed a warm Edmonton summer evening at Holyhood Community Hall for my annual summer barbeque.



Below: I was touched to see so many Edmontonians join the candle light vigil in memory of Jack Layton this past August at the Alberta Legislature. I and my colleagues have appreciated your kind words and good wishes.



I was invited to attend an on-location shoot of *Blackstone*, a locally produced dramatic TV series, where I met Tantoo Cardinal!

Below: The weather was beautiful for this year's citizenship ceremony, a wonderful part of the Heritage Festival at Hawrelak Park. Together with the Lieutenant Governor and other dignitaries, I welcomed new Canadians from around the world.

Parliamentary Bulletin

From the Office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsman



The Office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsman promotes professional service and fair treatment of taxpayers by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

The Taxpayers' Ombudsman reviews service and fairness related complaints, identifies systemic and emerging issues, and upholds the service-related rights found in the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

Since 2008, the Ombudsman, J. Paul Dubé, and his staff have handled thousands of taxpayers' complaints, conducted investigations, and published several reports on systemic issues. The Taxpayers' Ombudsman provides advice to the Minister of National Revenue on ways the CRA can improve its service to Canadians.

Know Your Rights

Canadians have rights as taxpayers as set out in the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. To learn about these rights or how to file a service-related complaint, visit our Web site at www.oto-boc.gc.ca.

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