

January 2015



# Linda Duncan

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT // EDMONTON—STRATHCONA  
www.LindaDuncanMP.ca

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## Happy New Year!

I wish you all the best in this New Year which promises to be a significant one in Canadian politics. Last fall was a difficult time for all Parliamentarians in Ottawa with the shootings in Center Block but we are all rallying to ensure that while improved security measures are put in place, Canadians' House of Parliament remains open and accessible to all. I appreciated your messages of support.

I am deeply appreciative of the feedback from you on issues of concern including for our brave veterans, cuts to home mail delivery, CBC/Radio Canada programming, affordable, quality childcare for all families, rail safety, heritage seeds and GMOs and expedited action on climate change. I appreciate your voices of support for the call for an inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women. The NDP succeeded in initiating a powerful half day debate on the need. For a link to that debate visit my website.

As Official Opposition Critic for Western Economic Diversification, I am focusing on the potential for meeting the dual goals of



I was again honoured to participate in the Remembrance Day Service with Holy Trinity Anglican Church and South Alberta Light Horse. The site of the Old Strathcona cenotaph (85 Ave/104 St) has recently been named Light Horse Park in honour of the regiment and I am working with a team to reestablish the cenotaph within the park.

cleaner energy and job creation from two sectors gaining attention elsewhere—the energy efficiency and renewable power sectors. The International Energy Agency and many of Canada's trading partners, including the U.S., Europe and China, are committing to deeper investments in the sectors for reasons

of health, economic prosperity and a more diversified sustainable economy. I am assisted in this initiative by two terrific NAIT and University of Alberta students.

Last fall I co-hosted forums on seniors' health care priorities (see page 2), on the temporary foreign workers program, and on addressing violence against women.

Last year I also had the privilege of travelling twice to Ukraine to assist with the monitoring of their elections and I again benefitted from the energy of another young Ukrainian intern.

## TOWN HALL with Linda Duncan MP

Come with your questions, concerns, and priorities for the 2015 budget.

**Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 pm  
Hazeldean Hall, 9630 66 Avenue**

*All welcome — hope to see you there!*



*Linda*

## 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.

Contactez Hélène à mon bureau de circonscription (780-495-8404) pour de l'assistance en français.

### My Edmonton constituency 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, 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)

## Budget 2015-2016

I want to make my input to the next federal budget reflect your top priorities. Do you think the main priority is to quickly erase the deficit? If so, where do you support deeper cuts- to federal transfers or spending on health care, advanced education, infrastructure, environmental protection or fossil fuel subsidies? Do you support a shift in federal spending priorities towards a more sustainable economy? If so, where can federal investment be best directed? Do you support increased federal spending to make life more affordable for families? If so, is your priority delivery of more quality child care spaces? support for home or business energy retrofits? Do you support a higher portion of the gas taxes being directed to municipal infrastructure? Who should be consulted on federal spending? municipalities? universities? workers? Do you think the government should continue use of omnibus budget bills to reform non-fiscal environmental protection laws? I welcome your input.



Thanks to family physician Dr. Noel Grisdale, from the Canadian Medical Association's Political Action Committee, for leading our town hall on the future of health care for Canada's senior population.

## Action on Seniors Health Care

I was pleased to host Dr. Noel Grisdale, Canadian Medical Association (CMA), at a town hall on seniors' health care focused the CMA's proposed pan-Canadian strategy for seniors' health care. The main elements include: addressing social determinants and reducing poverty; encouraging investment in affordable housing; investing in health promotion and prevention for older Canadians; improved primary care, including house calls; prioritizing current & future investments in home, community & long-term care; and increasing support for informal caregivers caring for seniors at home. Participants called for action to prevent heart attacks and strokes; improved management of chronic conditions and care for the frail elderly and those with dementia; greater investment in long term care and enhanced support for supporting seniors to remain in their homes, home care and basic living supports.

## How to Contact Linda Duncan



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

## Ensuring the Right to a Healthy Environment

I re-introduced my private member's bill to establish a Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights, Bill C-634. The law would enshrine Canadians' right to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment by imposing duties on the government to take action to protect the



environment including legislating and enforcing environmental protection measures.

The bill also extends legal rights to Canadians to access environmental information, to participate in decisions impacting their environment and to seek judicial intervention where those rights and duties are not upheld.

The bill also extends protections to whistleblowers who expose government failure to protect the environment.

While I first introduced the bill in 2009, these reforms have become all the more critical as the government has significantly undermined and eroded federal environmental laws and rights. Visit the *"Environmental Bill of Rights"* section of my website for more details.

## Speaking up for Veterans

We have long called for substantially increased supports for veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP. A tragic 128 soldiers and 32 reservists were lost to suicide since the military mission in Afghanistan began 10 years ago. A Parliamentary Committee recommended that the government not medically discharge soldiers before Veterans Affairs is ready to care for them, provide better support to families, and guarantee benefits for life for the most seriously disabled vets.

The Veterans' Ombudsman has called for improved care for the most gravely injured, to prevent leaving injured soldiers in poverty after age 65. The report recommends improved compensation for pain and suffering injuries, including lost limbs. We have also called for reopening of the veterans' offices. The government finally committed some increased spending in response to the fall 2014 Auditor General report. [http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl\\_lp\\_e\\_933.html](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_lp_e_933.html)

I visited the Riverdale Community Childcare Centre to launch the NDP's affordable childcare strategy.



## Actions on Affordability

The NDP moved a motion calling for a \$15 minimum wage for all federal workers to show federal leadership in ensuring a livable wage, a standard that provinces could follow for all workers. Regrettably, the motion was voted down. We continued our campaign for a better deal on credit card fees for Canadians, especially for small and medium-sized businesses. Despite a ruling by the Canadian Competition Tribunal that conditions for Canadian businesses were anti-competitive, the fees excessive and government regulation is required, the government still refuses to act.

We also issued a national strategy for affordable, quality child care services for all families, a key prerequisite to parents having equal opportunity to complete their education or enter the workforce. Paying for child care has become Canadian families' second largest cost after mortgage or rent payments. In Edmonton-Strathcona a typical monthly charge per child is about \$1000 and many families remain on waiting lists. More than 70% of Canadian mothers with children under five are working yet less than 23% have access to regulated childcare spaces. Canada ranks last among comparable nations in its spending on child care. We view this as a wise investment as economic analyses indicate that for every \$1 spent on early childhood education, provincial and federal governments recoup \$1.75 in tax revenue and decreased social spending. Visit the *"Affordable Childcare"* section of my website for more details.

## Actions towards a Cleaner Energy Path

Actions taken by my colleagues for cleaner more affordable energy included a motion for federal investment in energy efficiency, regrettably voted down. I supported our motion calling for broader consultation with communities and First nations in determination on the "public interest" in reviews of major energy and resource projects and supported a bill to legislate a ban on tanker traffic along the pristine coast of Northwest B.C., require adequate consultation in NEB project reviews and to mandate the NEB to consider value-added benefits for any "public benefits" of resource projects. I also participated in the NDP sponsored public forum on Parliament Hill on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency policy, practice and experience in Canada and abroad.



I had an excellent meeting with Sylvie Powell, Steve Clayman, Mary Gauthier, Dave Seymour and Joseph Clark of the Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance on potential federal action to improve efficiency.

## IN THE COMMUNITY



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**1:** Celebrating with Edmonton-Strathcona constituents James Byabagambi and Miriam Sekandi and their children Stephen, Victoria and Linda at their citizenship ceremony.

**2:** With Campus St.-Jean Dean Pierre-Yves Mocquais and St.-Jean Ambassador Joel Baillargeon at Bonnie Doon's Community Leagues Day event.

**3:** Wishing Loretta Mustus-Duncan and students Marian and Lorraine

success at the Keeping the Promise Youth Conference.

**4:** My NDP colleague Jinny Simms, Opposition Critic for Employment & Social Development, and I met with skilled trades workers at a forum discussing how the Temporary Foreign Worker Program is affecting their job opportunities.

**5:** Presenting the Edmonton-Strathcona Youth Leadership Award to Martyna Grudzień at Austin O'Brien High School's awards ceremony.

**6:** Attending the Ukrainian Canadian Congress—Alberta Provincial Council Hetman Awards Gala with Maria Korolenko, my intern through the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Internship Program.

**7:** Looking forward to following up on discussions with Edmonton and area city councillors on federal support to cities.

**8:** I was one of the "Celebrity Chefs" for the Capilano Chili Cook-Off, raising funds for Capilano's playground redevelopment.



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