

January 2014



Linda Duncan

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT // EDMONTON—STRATHCONA

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Happy New Year!

After the fall prorogation, despite promises of a new agenda, Parliament resumed with the government re-tabling the very same bills that died on prorogation. I and my colleagues have continued to raise the issues, concerns and amendments Canadians are bringing to our attention. We have also tabled a number of private member bills, particularly focused on improved access to health care, senior care, affordable housing and consumer rights.

I am taking advantage of my time in the riding during the Christmas and New Year break to seek your views on the coming federal budget. I encourage you to attend my Town Hall in January (see below for details). Feel free to send me a note or an email outlining the areas you think should receive increased or reduced federal attention and support. If you write to the Finance Minister please copy me so I can know your views.

As Official Opposition Critic for Western Economic Diversification (WED), I continue to pursue incentives and sup-



On November 23 I was honoured to represent my parliamentary colleagues at the commemoration of Holodomor—the tragic famine in Ukraine 1932/1933—which was held at Edmonton City Hall and at the memorial outside.

ports for Western Canadian small and medium businesses and for commercialization and marketing support for local innovations. I am reaching out to western Canadian businesses and associations to discuss measures they need to help their businesses grow. Let me know if you

support greater investment in measures to reduce energy use and to shift over to cleaner, more efficient electricity and power sources.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Linda



TOWN HALL WITH LINDA DUNCAN

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7 pm | Arts Barns, 10330 – 84 Avenue
Come with your questions and concerns.

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, going online to 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. 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/

For the Repayment Assistance Plan: 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

Canada Pension Plan

For CPP, Survivors Benefit and CPP Disability benefit:

www.servicecanada.gc.ca/cpp

For Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement

www.servicecanada.gc.ca/oas



Placing a wreath at the Cenotaph in Strathcona during the 2013 Remembrance Day ceremony.

Supporting our Country's Veterans

The Veterans Ombudsman has expressed concern that the current Veterans Charter will reduce some of Canada's most severely disabled soldiers to poverty. According to his report, over 400 of Canada's most severely disabled veterans do not even qualify for a Canadian Forces Pension. Further, over 600 soldiers who have been declared permanently disabled could also be at risk. Annually more than 200 injured military personnel a year are discharged before they are eligible for a pension, leaving them struggling to cope with serious health issues.

As a further affront, the Harper government has announced as a cost cutting measure the closure of nine Veterans Affairs offices in smaller communities by 2015.

Veterans will be forced to travel long-distances for service or rely on impersonal websites, phone apps, and call centres.

Peter Stoffer, New Democrat Critic for Veterans Affairs, has called for action to ensure veterans have sufficient retirement income and adequate support for transitioning to civilian careers. Expressing an opinion I am certain we all share, he said we must ensure that programs provide a standard of care and compensation commensurate to those who have accepted the condition of unlimited liability in the service of our country.

If you would like a copy of the New Democrats position paper *Fair Treatment for Canadian Forces and RCMP Veterans and their Families*, please contact my office.

How to Contact Linda Duncan



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

Still waiting for Action on Public Health Care

The Canada Health Accord expires in 2014. Yet despite the fact Albertans and most Canadians continue to identify public health care as a top priority, the Conservative government still refuses to meet with provincial and territorial partners. There has been no commitment for a second accord with binding targets. No federal action has been taken on a National Pharmaceutical Strategy — a stated goal of the 2004 Health Accord, despite efforts by some provinces to collaborate to provide more affordable access to prescription drugs. One in 10 prescriptions remains unfilled because some patients lack the resources to



With members of the Alberta Refugee Health Care Coalition at their recent launch of their report "Filling the Gaps". The group, which includes many Edmonton physicians, medical students, residents and other health care professionals, has expressed deep concern about the implication of federal cuts to essential health care services for refugees and refugee claimants and is campaigning for their reinstatement. Find out more about their organization at www.ARCHealth.com.

ensure they get the medicines they need.

Among the issues I and my colleagues are closely monitoring is the concern with potential impact of the Canada-Europe

Trade Agreement on higher pharmaceutical costs.

Cuts have been announced to federal funding over the next decade to a total of \$36 billion. I encourage you to write to the

Minister of Health to express your views on health care. The New Democrat policy on health care reform can be accessed at www.ndp.ca/health.

I welcome your feedback.

A Cleaner Energy Path

In November, the Edmonton Strathcona Constituency hosted a forum on cleaner electricity with guest speaker Dr. Tim Weis, Director of Renewable Energy and Efficiency Policy, Pembina Institute. Dr. Weis shared information about the impacts of Alberta's major source of electricity and potential options to offer cleaner sources. Currently,



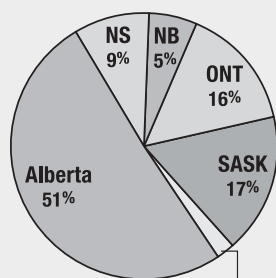
51% of the greenhouse gas emissions from Canadian electricity generation are emitted by Alberta power plants because of our heavy reliance on coal. Coal fired power emissions have also been identified by Canadian medical experts and the Lung Association as major contributors to asthma and other diseases (www.asthma.ca/pdf/costly-diagnosis.pdf). The single largest consumer of Alberta electricity is industry.

According to Dr. Weis the key barriers to shifting to cleaner energy generation are policy related and not due to a lack of proven, affordable cleaner technologies. Federal actions, including stricter pollution control standards and support for renewable power and energy retrofits, could incent a more rapid transition to cleaner energy and better health outcomes for Albertans. For more information go to www.Pembina.org.

Retirement security for all Canadians

A growing number of provinces, unions and other organizations are supporting New Democrats' call for reforms to increase CPP as the best solution to ensuring retirement security for a greater number of Canadians into the future. Regrettably, the federal government still refuses to budge from private investment options that the majority of Canadians simply can't afford.

Please contact my office for more information or copies of the petition asking for these reforms.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Canada: ELECTRICITY SECTOR

Reference National Inventory Report 2013



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1 In October I took part in the Sisters in Spirit—Stolen Sisters Awareness Walk in downtown Edmonton, along side Mikisew First Nation Chief Steve Courtoreille, RCMP Inspector Dennis Fraser and many others. **2** Maryna Gusyakova, a graduate of Khmelnytsky National University in Ukraine and participant in the Canada-Ukraine Internship program, worked in my Ottawa office this fall.

3 Placing a wreath at the Holodomor memorial at Edmonton City Hall.

4 Katie Morrison and Rebecca Reeves from the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society came to my Ottawa office in October. **5** With representatives



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from the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies, Dan Hewitt, Nathan Higgins, Adrian Wilson, Paul Ruffell in my Ottawa office. **6** Tom Mulcair, Leader of the Official Opposition, and I met with Dolorèse Nolette, Présidente, and Denis Perreaux, Directeur général of the L'Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta during Tom's recent visit to Edmonton. **7** With Bernice Rempel, Chair of the Edmonton Chapter of CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons) and former Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel at City Hall for proclamation of National Seniors Day.

Winter Events

Don't let the cold weather get you down!

Here are a few great activities in Edmonton Strathcona to take part in during the winter:

Canoe Theatre Festival

January 2 - February 2
www.workshopwest.org

Ice on Whyte

January 25 to February 2
www.iceonwhyte.ca

University of Alberta International Week:

Creating Solutions for a Healthier World
 January 27 – February 1
www.globaled.ualberta.ca/InternationalWeek

City of Light / Flying Canoe Adventure Festival

February 7 & 8
www.thecityoflight.ca

Silver Skate Festival

February 15 – 24
www.silverskatefestival.org

Global Visions Film Festival

February 27 – March 3
www.globalvisionsfestival.com