



Linda Duncan

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT // EDMONTON—STRATHCONA
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Greetings!

This fall, as recently appointed Critic for Environment and Climate Change, I participated in two international meetings on climate change. I joined the government delegation at the UN Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh meeting delegates from across the globe showcasing a wide array of actions to reduce greenhouse gases and keep global temperatures below a 2-degree increase. At Marrakesh it became evident that, despite concerns with anticipated potential backtracking on climate action by the next U.S. federal administration, governments, business and communities alike remain stalwart in shifting investments towards a cleaner energy future and mitigating impacts of climate change.

Particularly inspiring was a strong commitment made to ensure that women are given a voice in and benefit from any mitigation or adaptation programs. Equally impressive was discovering cooperative efforts for engaging indigenous peoples and workers towards a just transition to a cleaner energy economy. I plan to focus



I was pleased to meet instructors and students at I.B.E.W. Local 424's Electrical Industry Training Centre, a pre-apprenticeship training program offered at a low tuition rate. The centre now offers courses in photovoltaic systems and electric vehicle charging stations. Both the centre and nearby union hall are partly powered by solar panels.

my efforts on engaging Canadians in a strategy to ensure this just transition.

I was also privileged to participate in a dialogue in Edmonton between Canadian and British climate experts exploring strategies to deliver on their respective greenhouse gas reduction commitments. Having long campaigned for Alberta's transition

away from coal-fired power, I am gratified that the federal government will mirror actions by Alberta to expedite decommissioning of the sector. Considerably deeper federal efforts are needed to meet our Paris commitments, including upgrading the National Building Code, and investing in expanded deployment of energy efficiency and renewable power sources, notably in northern and isolated communities.

I look forward to seeing you at my Town Hall on Monday, February 27, and a forum on energy later this spring.

Best wishes for 2017,

Linda

TOWN HALL with Linda Duncan MP

Come with your questions and concerns.
All welcome — hope to see you there!

Monday, February 27, 7:00 pm
Strathcona Community Hall, 10139 87 Ave



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 Héléne 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

Celebrating a special 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.)

Governor General

Anniversaries: 50 years or more.

Birthdays: 90 years 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.)

Linda Duncan, MP

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

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. To order a form call 1-800-959-8281. 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/ For the Repayment Assistance Plan: www.canlearn.ca/eng/loans_grants/repayment/help/index.shtml

Finding a Job

For information on the Job Bank, resume writing tips, opportunities for youth and students, and job openings with the Federal Government: www.jobbank.gc.ca

Canada Pension Plan

For CPP, Survivors Benefit and CPP Disability benefit: www.servicecanada.gc.ca/cpp

For Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

www.servicecanada.gc.ca/oas



Visiting constituents in Argyll seeking views on Health Care reform

Health care

NDP Health Critic Don Davies issued a call supporting the provinces' plea for delay in planned federal cuts to the health care transfers, previously budgeted by the Harper Government. New Democrats have long called for negotiations on a new long-term Canadian Health Accord and greater funding for mental health programming and national pharmacare.

We also supported calls for urgent action on preventing deaths from Fentanyl and Carfentanil including opening of safe injection sites and increased availability of rehabilitation programs. The Conservatives blocked our call for expedited passage of Bill C-37 to streamline site approvals.

Precarious Employment

NDP Jobs, Employment and Workforce Development Critic Niki Ashton recently toured the country consulting Millennials on the precarious work crisis this generation is facing. She heard troubling concerns about struggles among youth in finding employ-

ment or being underemployed, often with no job security or benefits; high tuition and unprecedented levels of debt to get the education needed to actively participate in the job market; the expectation to work for experience rather than a paycheque; and an out-of-reach housing market. A call to action has been issued to the federal government on jobs and employment, social programming, family supports and access to postsecondary education. You can find a link to Niki's findings on my website.

Trade Agreements

Considerable time this fall was dedicated to debate on bills to implement trade deals including agreements with the European Union (CETA) and Ukraine (CUFTA). I am pleased to report that CUFTA received unanimous support at second reading and will go to Committee. While I and my colleagues raised concerns about CETA's impacts to pharmaceutical costs, the dairy industry and the investor-state dispute process, the government has so far refused any changes.

Canada Post

I was pleased to participate in Edmonton-area hearings on the future of Canada Post. I was impressed by recommendations for a wide array of innovative ideas to enhance Canada Post, including postal banking. It is encouraging that the Parliamentary Committee has recommended reinstatement of door-to-door mail delivery. Now we await response by the government. You can find the committee's report on my website,



Rail Safety

Last fall I tabled my Rail Safety Bill in the House of Commons in response to increasing community concerns about risks posed by dramatic increases in shipment of dangerous goods by rail and derailments. While governments have acknowledged that oil by rail poses significant risks, the rail sector is essentially exempt from environmental assessment required for pipelines. My bill requires environmental assessment of rail activities that pose

Electoral Reform Committee Finds Support for Change

Last fall MPs sought voters' views on electoral reform. I appreciated that so many constituents became actively engaged in this important discussion. Almost 300 people attended my town hall and hundreds responded to my survey, petitions and postcards. I reported all of your responses to the House of Commons Special Committee on Electoral Reform.

The Committee issued its report (www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/en/ERRE) in December, recommending adoption of a new electoral system as proportional as possible with minimized distortion between the popular will of the



Electoral Reform Town Hall held September 8 in Edmonton Strathcona

electorate and resultant seat allocation in Parliament.

In their joint supplemental report (page 329) the NDP and Green Party recommend adopting either Mixed Member Proportional Representation or Rural Urban Proportional Representation.

The Government appears to be backtracking on the prom-

ised reforms, instead issuing an online survey that many felt skewed responses. My NDP colleagues and I will continue to press for reform so that 2015 will be the last first-past-the-post election.

I welcome your thoughts and ideas as the debate on how Canada should change its electoral system progresses.

significant risks to health or the environment and additional certification for carriage of dangerous goods by rail. You can find the text of the bill on my website.

Expanding CPP

In November the House of Commons passed Bill C-26 amending the Canada Pension Plan Act to provide a modest increase from 25% to 33% of pre-retirement income. (We supported this, though preferred a 50% increase.) The increase in premiums will be

fully phased in by 2025, meaning those first to benefit from fully enhanced benefits are just entering the workforce.

The NDP sought, but was unable to achieve, amendments to maintain the "drop out" provisions. Current CPP benefits are based on an average of a person's earnings from 18 until they retire. To accommodate periods of low or zero earnings, the current plan allows for the lowest eight years of earnings to be dropped from the calculation.

There are also specific drop outs for child rearing and for people with disabilities. This poses significant impacts, especially for women, who overwhelmingly apply for the child rearing drop out and also receive much lower average CPP benefits.

First Nations Children

The House of Commons unanimously passed a motion introduced by Charlie Angus, NDP Critic for Indigenous Affairs, calling for an end to discrimination against First Nations children and an immediate injection of \$155-million in emergency funds for child welfare. The motion also called for the adoption of Jordan's Principle, so that no aboriginal child suffers denial, delay or disruption of health services available to other children because of jurisdictional disputes. Despite repeated compliance orders issued by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, the government has yet to redress this funding gap.

How to Contact Linda Duncan

 <p>In Edmonton 10049-81 Ave (Entrance on 101 St) Edmonton, Alberta T6E 1W7 Phone: 780-495-8404 Fax: 780-495-8403</p>	<p>In Ottawa House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 Phone: 613-995-7325 Fax: 613-995-5342</p>
<p>Email: linda.duncan@parl.gc.ca Web: www.LindaDuncanMP.ca</p>	

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



This year marks Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation!
Visit www.canada150.gc.ca to check for local and national celebrations, and for applications for funding available to community organizations who want to plan their own events.

IN THE COMMUNITY



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1: Remembrance Day with the South Alberta Light Horse regiment and Holy Trinity Anglican Church, held at Light Horse Park in Old Strathcona. This year's service incorporated the ringing of the Welberg Bell — a replica of The Bell of Liberation monument bell from Welberg, Netherlands.

2: Reading to a grade six class at the new St. Brendan Elementary/Junior High School.

3: I met some of Edmonton's Burundi community at the Francophone Newcomers Welcome Day at La Cité Francophone on October 29.

4: Edmonton Firefighters annual memorial service on September 11.

5: With University of Alberta surgeon-scientist Dr. Rachel Khadaroo who was visiting Parliament Hill to showcase her innovative surgery approach for frail seniors.

6: Women's Art Museum at La Cité Francophone.

7: With Alberta teachers in Ottawa for the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy, held every November.

8: Christmas sing-a-long at Strathcona Place Senior Centre.

Front cover: Meeting with students from the University of Alberta branch of Engineers without Borders.



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