



Linda Duncan

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT // EDMONTON STRATHCONA
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Greetings!

Here it is 2018 and we are well into the third year of the Liberal government’s mandate. Frustration is mounting with the government failing to deliver the promised strengthened federal laws on environmental assessment, navigable waters protection, national energy project review processes and regulation of toxins or to take concrete action to address climate change. Our iconic woodland caribou remain at risk and Canada is under investigation by UNESCO for failing to protect the Peace Athabasca Delta.

While our nation claims deep commitment to foreign aid, our contribution (0.26% GDI) continues to slide compared to many other nations (over 0.08 % GDI). As signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development we agreed to help address the most pressing global challenges including eliminating deep and persistent poverty and inequality; mitigating and adapting to climate change; protecting ecosystems and biodiversity; responding to the devastating consequences of protracted regional conflicts; and fulfilling the most fundamental human rights, including women’s and girls’ empowerment and gender equality. We must do our part to achieve a fairer, more sustainable and safer world, one that leaves no one behind.

When Tommy Douglas first proposed universal health care, his intent was to ensure



In December on Parliament Hill, as members of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, MP Blaine Calkins and I joined activists celebrating the Nobel Peace Prize award to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons for its efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition on nuclear weapons.

coverage for all medical needs despite financial means, not just access to doctors and hospitals. Yet far too many Canadians struggle to access affordable medicines, dental and sight services and mental health supports. We need the federal government to declare the rising deaths from opioids a national health crisis. The scale of aboriginal youth suicides demands higher priority. Isn’t it time that we put a higher priority on a true universal right to a healthy life?

Pensions for far too many hardworking Canadians continue to be placed at risk. In many instances corporations are allowed to underfund their pension plans. Added to this federal bankruptcy law grants secured creditors, including lenders and debt-holders, higher priority ahead of workers’ pensions and their benefits. The NDP has tabled a private member bill proposing a reordering of these priorities. I am also concerned that bankruptcy law grants low priority to recovery of reclamation costs for abandoned well sites, as a result burdening the public with those costs.

I welcome hearing back from you on your priorities for federal action and for the coming federal budget. All the best in 2018.

Linda

UPCOMING TOWN HALLS

Town Hall with Linda Duncan MP

Thursday, February 22, 7–8:30 pm

Fulton Place Community Hall

6115 Fulton Road (104 Avenue/62 Street)

Come with your questions and concerns about federal government issues.

Pensions Town Hall with MP Scott Duvall

Monday, March 5, 7–8:30 pm

McKernan Community Hall

11341 78 Avenue

Need blurb from Scott’s office. Need blurb from Scott’s office. Need blurb from Scott’s office. Need blurb from Scott’s office.

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 assist 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 no longer require a copy of the birth or wedding certificate but do require a signed declaration.

Linda Duncan, MP

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

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.

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

The deadline to file 2017 personal income tax is April 30, 2018.

Check the CRA website or contact our office for a listing of Edmonton organizations offering tax preparation clinics for seniors or others requiring assistance preparing their taxes.



Pension Benefits

Tabled in fall 2016, Bill C-27 would amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985 to enable federally regulated businesses to create Target Benefit Pension Plans, and to convert existing Defined Benefit Pension Plans into Target Benefit Plans. Target Benefit Plans are pension plans that lower the monetary liability for employers by shifting risk from employer to employees. In November the NDP tabled a motion seeking to scrap this bill considered an assault on workers' pensions. The bill has yet to be called forward for debate. The bill has been controversial given the Finance Minister's pre-election advocacy for the measures.

NDP Pensions Critic Scott Duvall has also mounted a campaign for protection of workers' pensions in the event of bankruptcies. (See town hall information on front page.)

Bill C-59 National Security

In November the House of Commons voted to send Bill C-59, dealing with National Security, to committee before 2nd Reading. While the Liberals had promised during the election to remove some of the more odious provisions

of the Harper National Security Law, regrettably their bill falls short. The government is retaining some measures imposed under C-51 including sharing of personal information between government departments and allowing CSIS to collect volumes of metadata containing confidential information about Canadians not relevant to its investigations. Investigative and detention powers vested in CSIS are proposed to be more constrained in law although many continue to express concerns with expanded surveillance. The government has appointed a National Security Committee of Parliamentarians (CoP) to provide some level of oversight. Concerns remain that the bill fails to address issues around the no-fly list.

Pharmacare

In October the NDP tabled a motion calling for universal Pharmacare with the dual objective of ensuring access by all Canadians to affordable medicines and saving the government billions of dollars. The Parliamentary Budget Officer has estimated a national Pharmacare program could deliver savings of roughly \$4.2 billion. Regrettably, the Liberals voted against our motion.

How to Contact Linda Duncan

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<p>Email: linda.duncan@parl.gc.ca Web: www.LindaDuncanMP.ca</p>	

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

LGBTQ2 Apology and Bill C-66

I was proud to be present when apologies were issued in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister and Opposition Leaders to members of Canada's LGBTQ2 community. Acknowledgement was given to the decades of harm done to their community through prejudice, discrimination and persecution and to the activists who fought against this prejudice. As our Parliamentary Leader, Guy Caron shared, "It is high time that we recognized that the careers and lives of thousands of Canadians were ruined, not only through the endemic discrimination, homophobia and transphobia of the past, but also by government policies and campaigns to single out members of the LGBTQ2 community for persecution."

Unanimous consent was given to Bill C-66 for the destruction of the records of unjust criminal convictions for consensual sexual activity between same-sex partners. Individuals convicted of listed offences may submit applications to the Parole Board of Canada to expunge their records subject to a number of conditions. The bill is now in the Senate.



This fall I attended a press conference on the Hill supporting my constituent Petra Schulz speaking for Moms Stop the Harm, a network of Canadian mothers and families whose loved ones have died from opioid use or who could have hope of recovery. We must heed their call for expedited action on the opioid crisis, which includes granting interim exemptions on all outstanding applications for supervised consumption services, initiating a national anti-stigma campaign, and launching a national advisory council modelled on Alberta's council. So many lives depend on it.

Agreement in principle has been reached to provide compensation to impacted federal civil servants, RCMP officers and members of the armed forces.

UNDRIP

The government has expressed its intention to support my fellow MP Romeo Saganash's Bill C-262 to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights

of Indigenous Peoples. This bill is considered a meaningful step toward recognition and respect of indigenous rights by Canada.

As voiced by Mr. Saganash, the main objective of his bill is to recognize that on one hand they are human rights but on the other hand we must begin to redress the past injustices that were inflicted on the first peoples of this country. Debate on the bill continues in the New Year.

Environment and Climate Change

Climate Action: I am pleased that nearly \$150 million is finally being forwarded to Alberta through the federal Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund. The majority of the funds, to be delivered over several years, will support provincial energy efficiency and retrofit programs contributing to reduced emissions and clean energy jobs.

The majority of the federal dollars committed to address climate change will not be spent until after the next two elections. I continue to seek more expedited federal action, beyond re-announcements, for measures to reduce greenhouse gases and to deploy cleaner energy sources, including for northern and indigenous communities still reliant

on diesel. The federal carbon tax has been delayed to the end of 2018 and regulations to reduce methane emissions, for cleaner fuels and coal power are still in process. Absent deeper actions Canada will not deliver its promised reductions.

Environmental Laws: The Liberals regrettably chose to ignore reforms recommended in 2016 by the Standing Committee, the Commissioner for Environment and Sustainable Development and experts to strengthen the federal Sustainable Development Act. While some minor changes are proposed under Bill C-57, the government rejected measures that could

Bill C-45 Cannabis

The House of Commons has passed Bill C-45 to create a regime for the regulation of possession, cultivation and sale of cannabis for medicinal and recreational use. While the NDP generally supports the proposed legal regime, we continue to call for the expunging of criminal records for Canadians convicted for simple possession and an end to arrest and prosecution for offences that are to be imminently made legal under C-45. The bill is currently before the Senate.

Housing

In November the government voted down Bill C-325, an Act to amend the Canadian Bill of Rights to include the right to housing, introduced by NDP MP Rachel Blaney. The intent of the bill, tabled by the NDP in successive parliaments, was to enshrine in Canadian law the fundamental right to housing consistent with Canada's ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The government several weeks later announced a commitment of monies for housing to be delivered over the next decade to end homelessness, but no law to make housing a right.

have imposed greater accountability. (See Committee report at www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/ENVI/report-2.)

Despite a campaign promise to restore federal environmental protection laws, the government has taken no action beyond consultation.

Built Heritage: The Standing Committee led a study and issued a report recommending federal actions to protect built heritage. (See committee report at www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/ENVI/report-10.) However, the Committee majority opposed a private bill recommending tax credits for private heritage restoration work.

IN THE COMMUNITY



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1: At Wagner High School which for "Orange Shirt Day" created a display and program on the legacy of residential schools

4: Laying a wreath at the Holodomor memorial at Edmonton City Hall. Holodomor recognizes the famine-genocide in Ukraine during 1932-33.

2: With instructor Doug McFarlane and Jagmeet Singh, touring facilities for NAIT's Alternative Energy Program.

5: Congratulating historian Sarah Carter, a professor at the University of Alberta, who received the Governor General's History Award for her book examining how homesteading denied property rights to women.

3: Touring the set and behind the scenes at "CAUTION: May Contain Nuts," a sketch comedy series produced in Edmonton.

6: At the Edmonton Fire Fighters' Union 100th anniversary gala.



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7: Wonderful afternoon of Christmas carolling at Strathcona Place Seniors.

8: Ritchie Community League organized a Citizenship Ceremony in recognition of Canada 150.

Front cover: With senior artist Christian Denis touring the Ice Castles, a handcrafted ice exhibit on display this winter in Hawrelak Park.



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