



# Linda Duncan

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT // EDMONTON STRATHCONA  
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## Greetings!

A highlight in this Parliament has been the address by education advocate Malala Yousafzai, after receiving honorary Canadian citizenship. Parliament has otherwise been preoccupied with debates on a second proposal by the majority Liberal government to unilaterally change the House rules with the effect of reducing the ability of the Opposition to hold the government accountable. This comes on the heels of the government reneging on their commitment to reform our elections laws to end the first past the post system, a reform the majority of Canadians had supported during consultations. Many continue to call for a more proportional system.

Parliament has also been focused on the impacts to Canada of Trump administration reforms including immigration and refugee claims and trade. These include demands for the renegotiation of NAFTA, an end to the supply management system for our dairy sector, threatened increased tariffs on softwood lumber exports and potential impacts to our oil and gas exports. All of these measures have potential impacts to the Alberta economy.



In April I was honoured to participate in the official opening of the new Francophone Junior/Senior High School Michaëlle-Jean, located in the Forest Heights neighbourhood.

As well, the reversal by the U.S. on significant environmental protection measures, including reneging on the Paris agreement to take action on climate change, phasing out of coal power, regulation of methane emissions and cleaner vehicle standards could impact

parallel measures our federal and provincial governments have committed to taking towards a cleaner energy future. Of concern, our federal government has already responded by delaying by two years regulations controls on methane emissions. Some reassurance can be found in the fact many U.S. states are continuing with their measures towards a cleaner energy path.

I look forward to a discussion on the prospects for a cleaner energy future at a film night and panel discussion I am hosting May 25 at Metro Cinema. I hope to see you there.

## Power to Change: The Energy Rebellion

6:30 pm, Thursday, May 25 | Metro Cinema, 8712 109 Street | Tickets \$9 / \$12

At the invitation of Metro Cinema Guest Presenter series, I am pleased to have the opportunity to show the dubbed German documentary **Power to Change: The Energy Rebellion**, followed by a panel discussion on the Alberta prospects for our transition to a cleaner energy future. Visit my website for more information.

### Panel to follow with:

- Clifton Lofthaug, President, Great Canadian Solar Ltd.
- Gil McGowan, President, Alberta Federation of Labour
- Evan Wilson, Prairies Regional Director, Canadian Wind Energy Association

This year marks Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation! Visit [www.canada150.gc.ca](http://www.canada150.gc.ca) for local and national celebratory events.

## 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 must include a photocopy of the birth or wedding certificate.)

### 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](http://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](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/](http://www.canlearn.ca/) 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, resume writing tips, opportunities for youth and students and job openings with the Federal Government:

[www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca)

### 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 (GIS)

[www.servicecanada.gc.ca/oas](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/oas)

## Environmental Law Reforms

Two years into their mandate, the government has yet to table the promised reforms to federal environmental assessment, fisheries and navigable waters protections and the National Energy Board. While a Committee has recommended against restoring previous protection measures to our lakes and rivers, the government has yet to respond. See the report online at [bit.ly/navigwat](http://bit.ly/navigwat).

A report by an appointed Expert Committee following consultations recommends major reforms to

the federal environmental assessment process including creation of a new permanent Impact Assessment Tribunal and strengthening the participation rights of the public and indigenous peoples in assessments. The report also supports calls to address regional and cumulative impacts from major projects and recommends assessment of all policy decisions to consider environmental, social and cultural impacts. You can find the report online at [bit.ly/expertenvironmentpanel](http://bit.ly/expertenvironmentpanel).

A recent investigation report filed by UNESCO identified significant risks to Wood Buffalo National Park and called for action by the federal government to address impacts to this World

Heritage Site from oilsands developments and the Site C dam in BC. Another recent monitoring report indicates that cumulative emissions from oilsands operations may be substantially greater than have been reported.

I have called on the government to reveal their intended reforms in a white paper, prior to tabling a bill, as the government has tended to refuse any amendments to their bills. It will be important that these reforms be open to public scrutiny.

As a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Environment, I have been participating in a review of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, the federal law that regulates toxic substances. Much of the testimony heard from witnesses has repeated previous calls for reforms including measures to protect vulnerable persons or communities, create national legally enforceable air pollution standards, ensure assessment of cumulative and synergistic effects of substances and expand public rights to information and a voice in approvals on toxins and require mandatory labelling in consumer products. The final report is slated to be tabled in Parliament later this spring.

The Committee also tabled a report ([bit.ly/protectedareas](http://bit.ly/protectedareas)) calling for expanded protections for national parks and protected spaces.



## Budget Bill

Concerns have been expressed that despite promises not to, the government tabled yet another 300-page omnibus budget implementation bill, amending over 30 laws with the result of limited opportunity for debate. Included is a bill to create an infrastructure bank leading to privatization of public infrastructure.



On Have a Heart Day with my NDP colleagues, I delivered cards to the Prime Minister from Albertans. The cards called for equal access to services for aboriginal children.

The budget does not deliver the promised end to CEO stock option loopholes and failed again to allocate the \$155 million needed to end racial discrimination in the provision of welfare services for indigenous children.

There are no measures to address precarious work or tax relief for small and medium businesses or funds to implement a pharmacare plan, leaving Canada the only country with universal health care that doesn't include prescription drug coverage. Concerns have been expressed about measures that will weaken the independence of the Parliamentary Budget Officer to assess and report on spending. Disappointment has also been expressed about the

freezing of foreign aid, leaving Canada once again failing to deliver on its commitments.

One positive budget decision was to provide at least partial funding for an Indigenous Guardians Program to promote and support training for environmental stewards for indigenous lands, an initiative supported across all parties, the AFN and some industry.

## Proposed Legalization of Cannabis

The government has tabled a bill to legalize and control cannabis use and sales. We are reviewing this legislation and proposing constructive amendments including pardons for those convicted of simple possession and directing any potential tax revenues to health, specifically addiction treatment and prevention. Many, including police, support our call to immediately decriminalize simple possession making it a ticketable offence until the new law is in place. Tens of thousands of criminal charges are issued each year for simple possession, impacting mostly youth and racialized Canadians. The law will leave many key issues to the provinces who will need time to establish their own regulatory systems for distribution and sale, and must establish an inspection system and impose a minimum age and possession limits.

## Other Bills & Reports

We supported the enactment of the Genetic Non-Discrimination Act, a law to protect Canadians from the need to release information on genetic defects.

My NDP colleagues tabled a number of private member bills of interest. Bill C-353, An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act (Canada Pension Plan payments) to preserve the cost of living



In March I travelled to New York, representing Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, to participate in the United Nations organizing conference for negotiations on a nuclear disarmament ban. Regrettably, the Trudeau government boycotted the talks and sent no delegates. A highlight for me was meeting and hearing the testimony of Peace Ambassador Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing.

increase on the Canada Pension Plan for seniors living in poverty and the many more at risk of falling into poverty. It would prohibit any reduction in the Guaranteed Income Supplement if the only change to one's income is as a result of CPP indexing. Bill C-325 would amend the Canadian Bill of Rights to include the right to proper housing, at a reasonable cost and free of unreasonable barriers and Bill C-291 would amend the Food and Drugs Act to govern the labelling of genetically modified food.

## National Energy Policy Review

The Federal Natural Resources Minister James Carr has initiated Generation Energy, a national dialogue on Canada's path to a low-carbon future. Over the next six months the government will consult with provinces, territories, Indigenous groups, international experts and academics, and online with the public.

The focus is on affordable energy and innovative jobs in the

energy sector. It may be noted that despite promised investments in cleaner energy generation, few dollars were allocated in this year's budget. I encourage you to share your views in this review by visiting [www.generationenergy.ca](http://www.generationenergy.ca).

## Electoral Reform

The majority of Canadians who responded to the government's call for public input on electoral reform supported an end to the first past the post process preferring a proportional voting system. Ignoring this feedback, the Prime Minister broke his election promise by refusing to move forward with the reform, and erased the electoral reform mandate when he appointed a new Democratic Institutions Minister in January. More than 130,000 Canadians have responded by signing an online petition supporting this reform. NDP Democratic reform Critic Nathan Cullen is crossing the country, including a recent visit to Edmonton seeking support.

## How to Contact Linda Duncan



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

## IN THE COMMUNITY



**1:** I joined the “Walking School Bus” to Belgravia Elementary School one morning, en route learning important science facts.

**2:** Delighted to be named 2017 Honorary Skirt for Edmonton’s SkirtsAfire women’s Arts Festival, which runs in March each year.

**3:** With Wallis Kendal, Kirsten Threefingers and Megan Red Shirt-Shaw to discuss funding sources for Indigenous education opportunities.

**4:** With University of Alberta professor Tracy Bear at the launch of Indigenous Canada, a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada.

**5:** Thanks to Mustard Seed’s Managing Director Dean Kurpuweit for providing me with a recent briefing on homeless needs in Edmonton.

**6:** With one the many Edmonton Strathcona families who attended my new Canadians reception in March.

**7:** Thanks to everyone who attended my February Town Hall.

**8:** At the Francophone African Women’s forum held at Campus St-Jean in February.

**Front cover:** Thrilled to speak to the thousands gathered at the Alberta Legislature for the Women’s March in January.

