

## Member of Parliament for Edmonton Strathcona

# Linda Duncan

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**G**reetings as we mark a New Year and the 100th anniversary of Strathcona joining Edmonton to form one Capital city!

I wish to provide a brief update on significant outcomes from the fall session of Parliament and where we anticipate focusing our attention for the remainder of the year.

The fall session evoked strong responses from many constituents. Disappointment was expressed about the government's failed leadership role at Durban combating climate change and lack of strategy for investment in a cleaner energy economy. Concerns were shared that as other nations invest in clean energy, Canada is being left behind.

I also heard concerns about the decision to kill the Canadian Wheat Board in disregard to the government's legal duties to consult the Board and grain growers.



Congratulations to organizers on another spectacular Ice on Whyte Festival.

In November, despite broad Canadian support to strengthen the CPP, the government instead tabled a bill, the Pooled Registered Pension Plans Act, a risky, privately administered alternative. The New Democrat Caucus continues to push for a strengthened and expanded CPP to provide Canadians with more secure, stable pensions. I have received the clear message

from Edmonton-Strathcona constituents that a secure retirement is a top priority and will continue to welcome your input as we debate the government bill.

A major focus of this session will be debate on the 2012-13 Budget. I and my caucus will be fighting to ensure that cost cutting measures do not come at the expense of Canadians' ability to access timely government services or to participate in the economy. My office has heard from an increasing number of people having problems communicating with EI. Service Canada employees are being asked to do more with less and call centres cannot keep up. We will also be watching for any deeper cuts to critical environmental protection programs.

Negotiations on the next Health Accord between the Federal, Provincial, Territorial and First Nations governments will also be a key priority.

Similar to concerns expressed by Premiers about the unilateral decisions being made by the Prime Minister, the Canadian public and First Nations are calling for a more open and transparent process to decide future funding and delivery of public health care. I appreciated the invitation from University of Alberta medical students to participate in a panel discussion on the future of health care. I encourage you to let the Prime Minister know what you want public health care in Canada to look like, as we move towards a new Health Accord in 2014.

As usual, it was wonderful to be back in Edmonton for the Christmas break. I attended the opening of our new, innovative Edmonton Clinic Health Academy and met with many of the programs delivering vital services for our community including the Hope Mission, Boyle Street Community Services Centre, Broken Arrow Society and Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. I joined students at McNally High School for their annual fundraising pancake breakfast, and met the 76th Strathearn Cub Scout troop for a discussion on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

As always, it my honour to represent you. Please keep in touch.

### Tax Clinic for Seniors in March

You are invited to join Linda Duncan as she hosts a clinic for tax issues related to seniors.

A representative from the Canada Revenue Agency will be there to answer your questions.

**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012

**Time:** 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.

**Place:** South East Edmonton Seniors Association (SEESA) Activity Centre, 9350 – 82 Street

We hope to see you there!

*Linda*

## Travelling Abroad? Safe Travel Resources

Consular Services assists thousands of Canadians abroad each year in many situations. We cannot stress enough the importance of taking a preventive approach to minimize the risks and increase the chances of having a safe and enjoyable trip abroad. A Canadian Passport does not grant immunity.

**READ-UP** on relevant topics such as safety, security and local laws in the destination country by consulting [Travel Reports and Warnings](#).

**REGISTER** with the [Registration of Canadians Abroad](#) service, so that we can contact and assist in an emergency.

**REACH US** at our [Emergency Operations Centre](#) in Ottawa if a Canadian experiences problems abroad.

**Visit [www.travel.gc.ca/RRR](http://www.travel.gc.ca/RRR) for more details**



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1. Touring the new Edmonton Clinic Health Academy with Dr. Gregory Kawchuk, the Canada Research Chair in Spinal Function and an associate professor in the Faculty of Rehabilitative Medicine at the U of A. 2. With the 76th Strathearn Cub Scout Troop, discussing the Canadian Charter of Rights 3. Visiting with grade 1 and 2 students at Garneau School who told me about their caribou project. 4. With Ron E. Scott, Executive Producer with Prairie Dog Film + Television at the opening of Season II of the award-winning, locally produced dramatic series Blackstone.

## How I can help

My Edmonton office:

- Employment Insurance
- Citizenship and Immigration
- Canada pension and taxes
- Student Loans
- Meeting with the MP
- Invitations to events
- Special messages for birthdays and anniversaries

My Ottawa office:

- Legislation information
- Submitting a petition for presentation in the House of Commons
- Accessing information on bills, laws, policies, etc. in the House
- Contacting government departments
- Visiting the House of Commons, including our office, and attending Question Period

If you need information on government programs and services, call toll free 1-800-0 Canada (1-800-622-6232) TTY: 1-800-926-9105, or visit [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca) or visit a Service Canada Centre.

## Congratulatory Messages

Are you or someone you know celebrating a birthday? An anniversary? New citizenship? A graduation? I would be pleased to send special greetings.

Contact my constituency office to arrange for greetings from the Governor General and the Prime Minister (nine weeks notice required) or Her Majesty the Queen (3 months notice required - for 60+ anniversaries and for 100+ birthdays).

### How to contact Linda Duncan

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