



# Linda Duncan

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT // EDMONTON—STRATHCONA  
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## Greetings!

Thank you all who attended my Town Hall or contacted me to share your issues and priorities for the long awaited federal budget and other federal matters. I encourage you to continue to inform me of your views. I have been delighted with opportunities to speak to students and for discussions with researchers at the University of Alberta, Campus Saint-Jean and Kings University. I enjoyed attending community winter festivals, and events hosted by service organizations and look forward to joining everyone in our annual Mill Creek spring clean-up this May.

Concern continues to grow, including among senior economists, that the delay in tabling the federal budget is impacting provinces, cities, businesses and service organizations. The lack of a budget clearly hampers my duty as your MP to hold the government accountable for decisions on spending tax payer dollars and making cuts to critical services.

The recent focus on addressing terrorism has distracted attention away from addressing economic challenges. We have sought to also bring debate back to the economy by tabling a series of motions including calling for

## Western Economic Diversification Tour

This spring as part of my duties as WED Official Opposition critic I am continuing my Western Canada tour exploring projects and potential for increased investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency as one path to enhanced economic diversification. Watch for updates on my website and in the next newsletter.



At my February 10 town hall I presented the national Everyday Political Citizen Youth Award on behalf of Samara Canada to eleven-year-old Allendale resident Nessa Deans. Congratulations Nessa!

immediate action to build a more balanced economy by encouraging manufacturing and small business job creation through a series of targeted measures. Regrettably, the Government voted against those measures.

We have also proposed an innovation tax credit, expanded accelerated capital cost allowances, and phased in tax cuts for small business, still the backbone of our economy. We have also called for increased federal support to university research and high-tech sectors to boost these important contributors to Edmonton's economy.

Families continue to grapple with accessing or paying for long-term care facilities, increasingly expensive childcare and post-

secondary education, rising household debt and saving for retirement. Our proposal to provide increased federal funding to create more quality, affordable childcare spaces and to support a maximum rate of \$15 a day has been receiving wide spread support. We also need to be addressing rising unemployment or underemployment of our youth, both as students and post-graduation. Our commitment to a \$15 per hour minimum wage for federal workers can set the bar for other employers to provide a more liveable wage.

As ever, I look forward to hearing from you.

*Linda*

## 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 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.)*

### Linda 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](http://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](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/eng/loans\\_grants/loans/](http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/loans_grants/loans/)  
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, on résumé writing tips, opportunities for youth and students, and for job openings with the Federal Government:

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

### 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

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

### Office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsman

Provides independent & impartial review of service-related complaints with the CRA: [www.oto-boc.gc.ca](http://www.oto-boc.gc.ca), 1-866-586-3839

## Security Bill C-51

Bill C-51, while initially gaining public support, now more closely studied, is attracting widespread concern and criticism from legal, constitutional, security and privacy experts as unnecessarily intruding on Charter rights and privacy and expanding powers of CSIS absent additional oversight. While most agree that actions are needed to address and prevent potential acts of terrorism, it is important that to ensure the appropriate oversight and constraints. Concerns expressed include that the bill: is being unnecessarily fast tracked; that expert testimony is being excluded from Committee review (Canada's Privacy Commissioner, Special Advocates, Canadian Bar Association); intrudes on a much larger class of activities beyond "acts



Read Privacy Commissioner Daniel Therrien's article about Bill C-51 at [www.priv.gc.ca/media/nr-c/2015/oped\\_150306\\_e.asp](http://www.priv.gc.ca/media/nr-c/2015/oped_150306_e.asp)

of terrorism"; reverses the mandate of the courts to uphold our Charter rights; overreaches in enabling information sharing of private information across government agencies; and, empowers CSIS agents to directly intervene including detention. I encourage constituents to share their views on the bill.

## "Stop the bus"

The last Conservative "omnibus" budget bill was 458 pages long.

Conservatives have used their omnibus budget bills to push through, with limited debate, wide ranging legislative reforms well beyond financial matters including reforms to pension contribution

rates, to environmental and fisheries laws, refugee health care and even criminal law. The practice prevents proper scrutiny of legislation and spending by all for MPs and is made worse by repeat imposition of time allocations and closure on debates. To address this undemocratic practice, my colleague, Peter Stoffer, NDP MP for Sackville – Eastern Shore, has introduced a private member's bill to prohibit the use of omnibus bills for reforms of unrelated materials. Petitions in support of the "Stop the Bus" bill are posted on my website.



## How to Contact Linda Duncan



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



### Addressing Drug shortages

The NDP Caucus has long called for a mandatory duty for drug companies to report to Health Canada any planned production disruptions. For example, a 2012 motion by the NDP called on the government to develop a nationwide strategy to anticipate and respond to drug shortages, require companies to report planned disruptions in production and expedite the safety reviews of medications. While the motion received the support of the House the government failed to follow through. The Minister of Health has now admitted voluntary reporting has failed and will require advance notice of shortages in production of essential medications. Some have suggested deeper action may be needed to actually prevent future drug shortages.

### Building a more Democratic Ukraine

Ukraine's struggles to find peace and stability concern many Canadians, especially those with family and cultural links. In a recent statement in the House of Commons marking the anniversary of the tragic deaths in Maidan Square on February 20 2014, I drew attention to Ukrainians, many of them youth, who have stepped away from their careers to restore rule of law and more democratic governance. One of my former interns, Maria Korolenko, informs me that, inspired by her participation in the Maidan demonstrations and an internship in Canada's Parliament, she has returned to Ukraine to become engaged in strengthening regional governance, building a strategy for energy independence, and assisting refugees from eastern Ukraine. I call upon Canadians to heed the calls for our support to Ukraine's civil society in its struggle for strengthened democratic governance.

### Protection for interns

Students are graduating from university or college with massive debts, few opportunities for paid employment and increased reliance on internships. Yet under current federal law, many interns lack protection accorded to paid workers including on health, and safety protections and labour standards.

My colleague Laurin Liu, NDP MP for Rivière-des-Mille-Îles, has introduced a Private Member's Bill, the Intern Protection Act, to address this issue. The bill, if passed, would extend health and safety protections to all interns, including basic employment standards, the right to refuse dangerous work, and freedom from sexual harassment. Additionally it would introduce clear rules to limit unpaid internships and generally prevent the exploitation of young Canadians. Our youth deserve real action from the federal government to stop this abuse. An electronic petition in support of Laurin's bill is available on my website.



I held my annual winter community town hall on February 10 at Hazeldean Hall. There was a great audience as usual asking questions and expressing concern about issues such as omnibus bills, pipelines, delays accessing government services, security Bill C-51, mental health services and youth participation in elections.

### Climate Change Accountability Bill

The NDP's Climate Change Accountability Act (Bill C-619) was re-introduced for the third time in the House of Commons by my colleague Matthew Kellway, MP for Beaches-East York. The bill requires the government to base ghg reduction targets on current science and requires annual reporting to Parliament on actions taken to address climate change. The bill twice supported by the House and when last passed by the elected MPs, was voted down by the Senate. A petition in support of the bill is posted on my website.

### Medically Assisted suicide

The Supreme Court of Canada has directed the federal government to produce a new law on medically assisted suicide within a year. I am certain that this subject involving very difficult decisions by patients, their families and medical personnel has touched many in my

constituency. We have called on the government to act expeditiously to initiate an open and constructive dialogue not only with all MPs but also with all Canadians in the drafting of the law. I encourage you to share your views on how the law should be crafted.

However, in parallel, we need greater investment in palliative and end of life care, and in mental health services and pain management. Based on my own family experience, and the equitable rights accorded under the Canada Health Act, I support calls for far deeper investment in palliative care, elder and chronic care and housing, and expanded access to all medical services for physical and mental well-being.

### A Pan Canadian dementia strategy

The number of Canadians living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias now stands at over 740,000, set to double within a generation. An increasing number of Canadians must quit their jobs or reduce working hours to care for loved ones. The landmark Bill C-356 tabled by my colleague NDP MP Claude Gravelle (Nickel Belt) calling for a pan-Canadian dementia strategy is currently being debated in the House of Commons. It calls for increased research and support for early diagnosis; improved early intervention and primary, home and community care; augmented training for those working with dementia patients; and, enhanced support to family caregivers. A petition supporting Bill C-356 is available to sign on my website at [www.lindaduncanmp.ca](http://www.lindaduncanmp.ca).





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**1:** Judging some fine stews at the Stew-Off during the Ice on Whyte festival. **2:** With The Landing's Linh Lu at another fantastic University of Alberta Pride Parade. **3:** Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Forum for Young Canadians with Jesse Power from J.H. Picard School. **4:** Honoured to attend the Nigerian Canadian Association's opening of their wonderful newly-renovated facility. **5:** Enjoying Edmonton's Chinese New Year Celebrations. **6:** Delighted to have Brooks Arcand-Paul & Maleeha Akhtar, interns from the University of Ottawa Law program, start working in my Hill office.

**IN THE COMMUNITY**

**7:** With Tara, Petros and Sogand at the annual multicultural celebration hosted by the Indo-Canadian Women's Association, an Edmonton organization that promotes participation by new Canadians in social, economic and political life in Canada. **8:** Trying my hand at ice-carving at the Southeast Winter Fun Festival held at the Argyll Community League. **9:** Members of Edmonton's Daughters Day steering committee Gurcharan Singh Bhatia, Charan Khehra and Jim Gurnett came to my office to present a petition calling for a national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.