



# Linda Duncan

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT // EDMONTON – STRATHCONA  
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**IN THIS ISSUE:** Summer Events | Highlights of the Past Session of Parliament | Security & Charter Rights | Taxes & Fees | Health Care Veterans | Resource Management | Diversifying Canada's Energy Sector | Government Programs & Services | Photos in the Community

## Greetings!

The latest session of Parliament was a highly contentious one garnering considerable public attention. I have greatly appreciated the engagement of Edmonton Strathcona constituents in voicing views and concerns about federal and opposition bills and motions.

Lots of you took the time to express opposition to the end to home postal delivery and to cuts to the CBC. Similarly I have received considerable feedback on the NDP proposals for enhanced access to affordable quality childcare, for lower small business taxes and for federal action on the environment.

Many Canadians, including legal and security experts and the Federal Privacy Commissioner, have voiced opposition to Conservative and Liberal support for Bill C-51 (Anti-Terrorism), in particular to invasions of privacy and sharing of personal information, expanded CSIS powers of intervention without increased oversight, secret hearings and mandating judges to authorize interventions that may offend Charter rights.

Like many of you, I was touched and deeply impressed by the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as they gathered in



**In May I held a reception for new Canadian citizens living in Edmonton-Strathcona and was thrilled to meet so many people from around the globe who have made Canada and Strathcona their new home.**

Edmonton and received testimony across Canada. I am certain you share my gratitude for their difficult work as well as appreciation for our mayor's commitment on behalf of the city to honour and contribute to the reconciliation process. I am similarly committed to heeding the call issued by the TRC that not only governments but all Canadians work in partnership

with Aboriginal Peoples towards true reconciliation and respect, starting with equal access to education, housing, safe drinking water, and benefits from resource developments.

It continues to be an honour to be able to assist you in accessing federal services and agencies. I wish to assure you that I and my colleagues continue to raise your concerns in Parliament about continuing frustrations and delays Canadians are experiencing in gaining timely access to federal benefits and tribunals and immigration matters.

I hope to see you at one of the events I will be hosting this summer.

*Linda*

### SUMMER EVENTS

*All Welcome!*

#### DESSERT & COFFEE SOCIAL

Wednesday, July 22,  
 6:30–8 pm  
 Malmo Community Hall,  
 11525 48 Ave

#### DESSERT & COFFEE SOCIAL

Wednesday, July 29,  
 6:30–8 pm  
 Blues Java Coffee  
 House, 5010 106 Ave  
*Plus – join our garden share  
 – bring your extra fruit,  
 vegetables, herbs.*

#### ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

Thursday, August 27,  
 6–7:30 pm  
 Ritchie Community Hall,  
 7727 98 Street  
*Enjoy burgers, hotdogs &  
 salads. Balloon animals &  
 facepainting for the kids.*

## 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 H el ene   mon bureau de circonscription (780-495-8404) pour de l'assistance en fran ais.*

### 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 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/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 resume 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

## Health care

The government responded to our call for action on drug shortages in Canada by directing drug manufacturers to publicly report in a more timely manner with notice now issued on a drug shortages website. Our motion calling for a National Dementia strategy was sadly defeated by majority of Conservatives. We stood alongside Canadian Thalidomide victims who finally obtained commitment for fair compensation. In the budget debates I spoke passionately about protecting public health care including opposing projected substantial cuts to health care transfers and called on the government to work with other levels of government to re-establish a national health accord with measurable targets.

## Resource management

We proposed numerous measures to strengthen resource management including an NDP Motion calling for expanded community and aboriginal rights to consultation on and benefit from resource

developments. This was voted down by the Conservatives. I have repeatedly called for restoration of funds for environment and climate action and greater attention to diversifying our economy including through renewable energy and energy efficiency. While Bill C-46, regarding the regulation of pipeline spills, offers some improvements, regrettably proposed amendments to strengthen compensation rights were rejected. I participated in the Natural Resources Committee study on forestry and debates on rail safety calling for legal reform to require environmental assessment of increasingly dangerous rail cargo.

## Ukraine

I spoke in the emergency debate on the conflict situation in Ukraine commending the Ukrainian-Canadian community for their advocacy and support and for increased Canadian aid in support of both a peaceful resolution and civil society efforts to strengthen rule of law and democratic governance.



Speaking at a rally against Bill C-51

## Security and Charter Rights

While Bill C-51 (Anti Terrorism Act) initially garnered strong public support, many changed their opinions once made aware of concerns raised by legal and security experts, retired Supreme Court judges, police experts and the Privacy Commissioner. Concerns focused on the failure to balance security measures with protection of rights and freedoms especially: expanded powers for CSIS, including direct intervention against perceived threats, absent enhanced oversight; expansion of no flight lists without right of appeal; mandat-

ing judges to authorize CSIS to violate Charter rights; expanded powers to spy on Canadians and share the information. The NDP opposed the bill while the Liberals and Conservatives voted for it.

## Basic Rights

This past session we made significant strides in seeking action on matters many of you have identified as priorities. Among the debates we initiated were: a call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women; honouring the rights of Indigenous Canadians by legally entrenching the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples; and an action plan to address violence against women. Regrettably, the government voted against all three. We did garner close to unanimous support for our motion to eradicate child poverty (now 21% nationwide) through investments in housing, child care and child nutrition programs. The Senate continues to obstruct passage

of the NDP bill on transgender rights passed by the elected House of Commons. Our motion to make Question Period answers more relevant was voted down. We tabled legislation to end the abuse of unpaid interns and extend workplace protections, but the government's bill fell significantly short.

Last fall I re-tabled the Environmental Bill of Rights to impose clear duties on the government to protect our environment and empower Canadians to hold the government accountable and to participate in all decisions impacting their health and environment.

## Temporary Foreign Workers

I and my NDP colleagues raised repeated concerns with abuses under the Temporary Foreign Workers program related to treatment of TFWs and displacement of Canadian workers. While some reforms were made, employers and workers remain concerned about an absence of consultation.

## Taxes and Fees

The government finally responded to our call to lower the tax rate for small to medium businesses, the backbone of the Canadian economy. Our motion and campaign to remove the discriminatory GST on feminine hygiene products garnered a unanimous vote and fast-tracked reform to remove the tax. MPs voted for the NDP's motion supporting a ban on Canadian banks charging consumers extra fees for basic transactions and for mailed paper statements.

In response to public outcry we continue to call for the return of door to door mail delivery. The Government opposed our motion for a \$15 federal minimum wage.

## Veterans

We gained a significant victory for our veterans with unanimous support for the NDP motion recognizing the covenant of moral, social, legal and fiduciary duties between Canadians, their government and our veterans injured, killed or disabled during military service and their dependents.

Right: Touring Edmonton's Owens Corning fibreglass insulation plant with supervisor Murray Gowers. Below: At Winnipeg's New Flyer electric bus plant with Daniel Blaikie and Tom Small.



## Diversifying Canada's Energy Sector

As Official Opposition Critic for Western Economic Diversification I have been exploring the potential for economic diversification and job creation through increased engagement in the globally exploding energy sectors of renewable energy and energy efficiency. As I have travelled across the West I have discovered growing interest in research, education, training, investment and commercialization and export opportunities in these sectors. Many universities and technical schools now offer related programs. I have been inspired by entrepreneurs risking their capital to invest in new economic opportunities for Canadians. I have been ably assisted by two terrific students, Karlie Nelson and Preet Atwal, graduates of the Alternative Energy Technology School at NAIT.

Alberta is rated to have the highest potential in Canada for wind and solar power generation and major opportunities for geothermal. Technical advances now make renewables affordable and reliable energy



Left: Leading a roundtable on the federal role in renewable energy and energy efficiency sponsored by Dr. Eric Bibeau, Mechanical Engineering professor and Hydro/NSERC Alternative Energy Chair, University of Manitoba. Right: Decorated solar panel on the roof of Vancouver Island's T'Sou-ke First Nation Main Hall.



sources. I am also discovering that Western Canada houses major innovators, manufacturers and exporters of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Environment Canada reports that for every million dollars invested over 30 jobs could be created in energy efficiency and 12 jobs in renewables compared with only seven jobs in conventional energy.

Coal fired power remains among the largest Canadian and Alberta sources of ghgs and pollution.

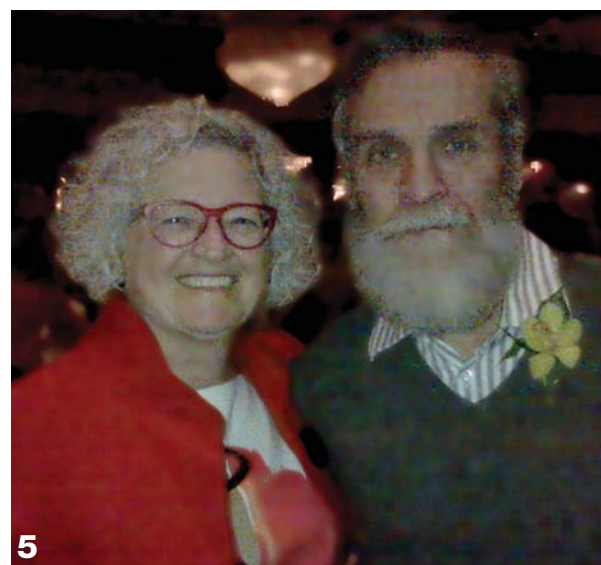
Documented health risks associated with coal power emissions are lending greater weight to calls for a faster transition to renewable power sources.

The federal government could play a larger role in expanding these economic sectors through greater investments in research, commercialization, support to export markets, energy retrofits and energy transitions strategies for aboriginal and northern communities.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

**1:** With new Canadians who took their oath of citizenship at a ceremony in May at Convocation Hall on the University of Alberta Campus. **2:** Thrilled to have Edmonton's Pride Parade and Festival back in Old Strathcona this year and to be able to share the day with Alberta Premier Rachel Notley. **3:** With Principal Jean-Daniel Tremblay for the annual raising of the Franco-Albertan flag, held this year at Gabrielle-Roy School in Strathearn. **4:** Edmonton's Annual Vaisakhi Sikh Parade attracts about 30,000 participants each year.

**5:** At the Seniors Association Of Greater Edmonton (SAGE) Awards with Belgravia resident Lorris Williams, award-winner in the public/non-profit category for his work with iHuman Youth Society. **6:** Congratulating board members from Organics Alberta who received a Western Economic Diversification grant to expand and promote the Prairie Organic Grain Initiative. **7:** I was the honorary starter at the Shoppers Drug Mart Run for Women in support of the Reproductive Mental Health Program at the Lois Hole Hospital for Women.



**How to Contact**  
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