



Linda Duncan

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT // EDMONTON STRATHCONA
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Friends,

It has been another hectic and intense Parliamentary session. I was preoccupied for many months with the review of the 800-clause Bill C-69, the long promised bill to strengthen federal impact assessment, the law protecting navigable waters and to reform the National Energy Board. Regrettably, the government imposed time allocation on debate in the House and review at Committee. Despite widespread calls to strengthen the bill, the vast majority of amendments were rejected. Concerns remain that promised strengthened public and Indigenous rights and independent review processes were not delivered. As part of the Committee's study of innovations for a clean energy future we travelled to Alberta to learn from a number of energy innovators.

Debate in the House remains focused on concerns with the NAFTA negotiations and trade tariffs, on immigration and on challenges faced by the Kinder Morgan pipeline. As the Critic for International Assistance I accepted an invitation from the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation to join a gathering of inspiring young Edmontonians to contribute their priorities for a Canadian agenda for global action on the rights of young women at the June G7 meeting, which I shared in the House. While the government's Feminist International Aid Policy and call for contributions to education for girls and young women were an intended



A fantastic crowd came out on May 12 for the Ben Calf Robe Annual Pow Wow, which featured traditional dancing, drumming, crafts and food. I was honoured to be part of the Grand Entry.

focus for the Quebec meeting, mounting trade disputes became the major focus. I have been participating in deliberations on Canadian aid policy in the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and will join the government delegation to the U.N. meetings in July.

As a member of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament, I joined women parliamentarians globally supporting the U.N. Governor General call to commence negotiations on a nuclear disarmament treaty. I joined my colleagues in expressing

concerns that the bill to adopt the Arms Trade Treaty fails to fully meet the terms including refusing or withdrawing export approvals when evidence shows human rights violations.

In a statement in the House I thanked the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters for their decades of support to women and children seeking refuge and for launching a federally and provincially sponsored innovative program to improve more collaborative supports to prevent and respond to domestic violence. I also spoke to Bill C-281 to establish a National Local Food Day Motion honouring the dedication of our area farmers to protecting productive lands to provide our families with healthy sustenance.

I hope you are able to enjoy a summer break and I look forward to seeing you at one of Edmonton Strathcona's many festivals.

Linda

Join me at my summer events — all welcome!

DESSERT & COFFEE SOCIAL

Wednesday, August 1, 6:30–8 pm

Riverdale Community Hall,
9231 100 Avenue

Enjoy after-dinner treats and conversation.

ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

Wednesday, August 29, 6–7:30 pm

Ritchie Community Hall, 7727 98 Street

Enjoy burgers, hotdogs, and veggie options.
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 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.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions/cpp

For Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

www.servicecanada.gc.ca/oas

How to Contact Linda Duncan



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Cannabis

Bill C-45 both legalizes and regulates the production, sale and recreational use of cannabis. The provinces will control the sales outlets. The bill imposes age limits and both criminal and ticketing penalties. Significant penalties are imposed for providing to minors, although the bill does not override the Youth Criminal Justice Act for young offenders. Within three years of passage the government must complete a review of the law and its application. The government can suspend cannabis licenses for reasons not specifically included in the legislation. Each province can set the legal age for consumption, location of vendors and despite objections by some provinces, home cultivation will be allowed for a small number of plants with the intent of displacing the illegal cannabis market. As the consumption and sale will soon be made legal we have expressed disappointment the government is not instituting either an amnesty on arrests or pardons for prior convictions of mere possession. Recreational marijuana will officially become legal on October 17. A bill expanding police powers for road side checks for impaired driving absent need of reasonable cause also passed.

Carbon Tax

As the law to establish a federal carbon tax was included in the Budget Implementation Act, opportunity for debate was limited. The law establishes a graduated tax on carbon imposed on industrial emissions, home owners and businesses. It does not apply in provinces and territories that have established their own regime for placing a price on carbon emissions (either through a tax or cap and trade) and that meets specified criteria including a levy on fossil fuels that will increase annually and prices pollution from industry with the intent of encouraging innovation to reduce emissions. The cost to households

and businesses will differ based on their energy sources and energy consumption. The carbon cost will reflect the GHG emission footprint of each fuel type. As Alberta has had a system for imposing a price on GHGs since 2007, Alberta is exempt, except for the duty to increase the price over time. Alberta also issued, and the federal government has proposed, regulations to reduce methane emissions. Alberta also allocated monies transferred from the federal climate fund towards improving energy efficiency.

Arms Trade Treaty

Many constituents shared concerns with the government approving and then refusing to reconsider approval of sales of heavy assault armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia, despite reports of violations of human rights. We raised concerns that the bill to finally accede to the Arms Trade Treaty fails to comply with all requirements to control or limit arms sales and includes significant loopholes. These include exempting sales to United States — over half of Canadian exports — and refusal to require reassessment of export permits if new information arises about rights violations. The government has rejected our calls for disclosure of human rights assessments, parliamentary oversight on exports and a federal manufacturing strategy on equipment for Canadian forces.

National Local Food Day

In support of Bill C-281, National Local Food Day, tabled by my NDP colleague Wayne Stetski, I extended accolades to the Alberta farmers who have advocated for protection of agricultural lands, to Edmonton's bakeries, restaurants, breweries and distilleries using local grains and produce, as well as to those supporting community gardens, including Green and Gold at south campus and our markets. I extended kudos to our City for its Edmonton Food Council and the province for enacting a law supporting the local food sector.

Postal Banking

My colleague MP Irene Mathysen tabled Motion M-166 calling for a special House of Commons committee to study and propose a plan for a postal banking system. The intent is to ensure better access to financial services. Over 600 municipalities have passed resolutions that support postal banking. Almost two out of every three respondents polled support Canada Post expanding revenue-generating services, including financial services like bill payments, insurance, and postal banking. Postal banking was part of Canadian life for over a hundred years until it was prohibited in 1967.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

An historic moment occurred in the House of Commons in May when Bill C-252, tabled by my colleague MP Romeo Saganash, passed third reading. He has dedicated 40 years of his life to this enactment recognizing the rights of Indigenous people in Canada. The Spring 2018 Auditor General's report chastised the government for failing to consider these rights in assessing Indigenous well-being. Despite voting for Bill C-262, the government opposed my amendments to prescribe the UNDRIP rights in the Federal Sustainable Development Act and in Bill C-69, the federal Impact Assessment Act.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The 800-clause omnibus Bill C-69 establishing a new federal process to assess environmental, social and economic impacts, was passed in June through a fast tracked review process. The bill also replaces the National Energy Board with a new Canadian Energy Regulator and amends the Navigation Protection Act (formerly the Navigable Waters Protection Act). Now before the Senate, the bill drew over 150 briefs



I appreciated the discussion I had with Edmonton and area Sears pensioners on their concerns with failed government action on their calls to protect their pensions including in bankruptcy. My MP colleague Scott Duvall has proposed Private Member's Bill C-384 to amend bankruptcy laws to prioritize worker pension and benefits.

Elections Reform

Amendments made to the federal elections law include increasing spending limits for parties and third parties during the writ process; allows parties to sell personal information; requires reporting by third parties; increased child care claims for candidates; registration of future voters aged 14-17; restoring voting rights for non-residents and vouching; and, empowers the Chief Elector Officer to educate voters. Regrettably, the government failed to keep its promise to replace the first-past-the-post voting process.

Paid Leave for Family Violence Survivors

In Budget 2017 the Liberals provided three days unpaid leave for survivors of family violence. Canada's unions have been advocating for paid domestic violence leave for years with the Public Service Alliance of Canada advocating for 10 days of paid leave for public servants. While in Budget 2018 the government announced it would be amending the Canada Labour Code to provide five days of paid leave to workers in the federally regulated jurisdiction who are victims of family violence or the parent of a child who is the victim of family violence, the changes have not yet been introduced.

Homelessness and Housing

Homelessness in Canada has reached a crisis level with 235,000 Canadians experiencing homelessness every year. Housing and income security are recognized as two of the most important social determinants of health. Inequality jeopardizes both individual and community health as the costs of social assistance, medical care, education and incarceration rise as more people fall below the poverty

line. Regrettably, a motion by my colleague MP Sheri Benson calling for a special all-party committee to propose and table in the House within a year a national plan to prevent and end homelessness was defeated by the Liberals. This is the second time the Liberals have voted against ending homelessness in this Parliament. Last November, the government voted against MP Rachel Blaney's bill to recognize housing as a human right.

National Security

While the government had promised to rescind the most egregious parts of the Conservatives' Bill C-51, the government only made limited reforms through C-59 including adding representatives from all parties to the Security Intelligence Review Committee and some changes to the no-fly list. Concerns remain that information sharing amongst government agencies may violate Canadians' privacy rights; both CSIS and CSE retain their sweeping powers; and, limited transparency will hinder the ability to hold agencies accountable. The bill also does not prohibit the use of information obtained under use of torture.

IN THE COMMUNITY



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1: Meeting with constituents on their ongoing concerns with delays in processing immigration applications made by Iranians working, studying or seeking permanent residency in Canada.

Humanity event hosted by the Société Congolaise.

2: I hosted a roundtable with young Edmontonians from the Youth for Gender Equality initiative to discuss sustainable goals for gender equality in Canada and abroad.

4: At the annual Mill Creek Ravine Clean-up with biologist Shelagh Campbell.

5: Taking questions at my winter town hall meeting in Fulton Place.

6: I joined thousands of other Edmontonians at the annual Nagar Kirtan Sikh Parade held in May in Mill Woods. The parade celebrates the spring festival of Vaisakhi and the birth of the Khalsa.

3: At Campus Saint-Jean for the African Contribution to

7: With instructors Marcelo Mena and Len Legault touring the welding department at NAIT's Waiward Centre for Steel Technologies, which is located in my riding at the Souch Campus.

8: Appreciated participating in the inaugural friendship conference with Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Edmonton and Treaty 6 First Nations, working towards building bridges between the Indigenous and Muslim communities in Canada.

Front cover: At the 2018 Edmonton Pride Parade in Old Strathcona.



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