

Member of
Parliament for
Edmonton Strathcona

Linda Duncan

INSIDE: Summer Calendar of Events • Budget Bill • Old Age Security • Environment • Temporary Foreign Workers • Financial Consumer Agency of Canada • New Citizenship Cards • Photos •



Many constituents have contacted me to express concerns with federal law and policy changes and in particular Bill C-38, the federal budget bill. This 400 page omnibus bill was controversial both because of its size and the limited opportunity for public review of major changes to over 60 federal laws unrelated to normal budget matters. Most significantly Bill C-38 erodes environmental, pension, immigration and workplace laws.

The bill erodes decades of cooperative efforts to establish an effective and coordinated federal-provincial environmental assessment process for major projects and significantly limits rights of concerned or impacted Canadians to participate in project reviews. It significantly reduces critical federal powers to protect fish habitat, with a stated intent of fast tracking of major industrial projects, including pipelines.

The age of eligibility for Old Age Security (OAS) is being raised from 65 to 67 for those under 54 years of age, despite advice by experts including the OECD and Parliamentary Budget officer that the changes are unnecessary. The Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act and Employment Equity Act are rescinded and access further



Congratulations to U of A School of Business students for another successful 5 Days for the Homeless fundraising event. This year's national fundraising total was over \$235,000!

restricted to employment insurance. Applications for temporary foreign workers are being fast tracked and applications for permanent residency delayed. Millions are budgeted for a targeted witch hunt against environmental organizations who raise concerns about energy projects or who assist impacted First Nations or communities.

Many of you contacted me to express concerns shared by me and my colleagues that the record deficit established by the Harper government could be better addressed by reconsidering ongoing cuts to tax rates for major corporations, planned new prisons and untendered fighter jet purchases, instead of cutting pensions for Canada's poor or downgrading environmental

protection laws.

Recently elected federal New Democrat Leader, Thomas Mulcair has appointed me as

Official Opposition Critic for Public Works and Government Services. During my tenure as Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Critic and previously as Environment Critic I forged relationships with many First Nations and Métis and communities across the country and look forward to continued work alongside my colleagues raising related issues and concerns in Parliament.

I look forward to seeing you all at festivals and events this summer and talking with you about your priorities and concerns.

Best wishes,

Linda

Summer Calendar of Events

July 26 **Coffee and Dessert Night**
6:30 to 8:00 pm Join Linda for dessert, coffee and conversation at **Lendrum Community Hall** located at **11335 57 Avenue**

August 7 **Annual MP Summer Barbecue**
6:00 to 8:00 pm Come to the **Argyll Community Hall, located at 6750 88 Street** where Linda and her team serve up burgers and summer fun. Everyone is welcome. Balloon art and face painting for kids!

*We hope you
can join us!*



How I can help

My staff and I work hard to ensure our community has a strong voice in Ottawa. Please contact us for 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 (see below)

My Ottawa office:

- 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, including our office, and attending Question Period

Greetings and Congratulatory Messages

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

Her Majesty, The Queen

Anniversaries: 60 years or more **Birthdays:** 100 years or more (Three months notice required)

Requests must include a photocopy of the birth or wedding certificate

Prime Minister

Anniversaries: 25 yrs or more **Birthdays:** 75 years or more (Nine weeks notice required)

Governor General

Anniversaries: 50th–59th **Birthdays:** 90th–99th (Nine weeks notice required)

Linda F. Duncan, MP

Any anniversary, birthday, graduation, new citizenship or other special occasion

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 or visit a Service Canada Centre.



How to Contact Linda Duncan

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New Citizenship Certificates

CIC has replaced the plastic wallet-sized citizenship certificate and commemorative document with a letter-sized citizenship certificate and has introduced an electronic validation portal.

The new certificate contains a unique number, barcodes, and other information about its holder. This allows other government departments to validate citizenship information via an electronic validation portal, reducing the possibility that non-Canadians will produce fraudulent Canadian citizenship certificates and successfully use them to receive the associated benefits.

Passport Canada, Service Canada (Social Insurance Number), and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Consular Services), currently have access to the e-validation Web portal. Access to the Web portal may be expanded to other federal, provincial and territorial partners as needed.

Like the plastic wallet-sized citizenship certificate, the new certificate is a legal status document and not an identity or travel document. Unlike the plastic wallet-sized card, it does not bear a photograph. The sole purpose of the certificate is to prove Canadian citizenship.

For more information about the new citizenship certificate, please refer to the notice published on the CIC Web site at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/index.asp>.



Financial Consumer Agency of Canada

The FCAC is an arms-length agency of the federal government that looks at consumer issues and helps educate consumers on financial products and services.

The FCAC provides information to help consumers:

- Understand and compare financial products and services;
- Know their rights and responsibilities as a consumer; and
- Track down the respective complaint-handling process for their financial institution (see search tool here: <http://www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca/eng/resources/lodgeComplaint/CHPSearch-eng.asp>)

The FCAC provides information and materials on:

- Banking, Credit Cards, Mortgages
- Lines of Credit, Credit Report & Credit Score
- Buying Your First Home, Loans
- Budgeting Tool, Paying Off Your Mortgage Faster
- Savings & Investments, Debt Management
- Mortgage Tool Kit, Insurance, Debt Tool Kit
- Before You Sign Any Contract: 10 Things You Need To Know
- Tools & Calculators, Educational Programs
- Protecting Yourself Against Different Kinds of Fraud

Visit <http://www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca/eng/index-eng.asp>.

Environmental Assessment and Fisheries

Bill C-38 rescinds the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and replaces it with a new law significantly reducing federal responsibilities to assess project impacts, including in areas of exclusive federal jurisdiction. The Minister and Cabinet will be able to override decisions and recommendations of National Energy Board or Canadian Environmental Assessment panels to reject projects or to impose conditions. Environmental assessments may also be delegated to provinces.

The Fisheries Act, Canada's most significant environmental law, is being amended to remove the duty to protect fish habitat, also the most important federal trigger for full assessment of impacts of major resource projects. In effect, the government is, without consultation, amending the Constitution by undermining its exclusive power to protect our fisheries.

Old Age Security

Concerns have been expressed that Bill (C-38) in raising the age of eligibility for OAS to 67 will increase the poverty rate for seniors. Thirty per cent of seniors, 38 percent of women seniors, rely on these pensions for half of their income.

Many financial experts, including the Parliamentary Budget Officer and the OECD have determined OAS is actually sustainable over the long term and the cuts unnecessary. The effect will be to download the costs of assisting seniors to the provinces.

National Transit Strategy

This spring saw the tabling of NDP Transit Critic, Olivia Chow's Private Members Bill C-305, which proposes a national strategy on transit. This particular bill has received attention across the country as urban Canadians have voiced their support. The proposed strategy would dedicate an additional cent of existing Gas Tax to public transit to benefit provinces and municipi-

palities by creating \$400 million annually in dedicated funding to help alleviate most pressing transit funding needs.

This bill addresses numerous needs to tackle infrastructure demands of growing cities. Quality of life, improved urban planning, economic and



environmental benefits are all areas that a national transit strategy will address. As well as receiving overwhelming public support, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canadian Urban Transit Association, Canadian

Construction Association and Canadian Chamber of Commerce have all come out in support of a National Transit Strategy.

I wish to thank all the Edmontonians who have signed the petition supporting a National Transit Strategy. I encourage you all to write to the federal Minister of Transport to express your support for a National Transit Strategy and why it is important for Edmonton.

Temporary Foreign Workers

Changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) dictate that TFWP applications must be processed within 10 business days and allow for 15% lower wages. Concerns have been expressed that the effect will be reduced efforts to hire Canadians and reduced requirements for support for relocation assistance and training for highly-skilled jobs.



Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal Nominate a Community Member

On February 6, 2012, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II marked the 60th anniversary of her accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada – an occasion marked only once before by her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, in 1897.

In celebration of this event, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is to be awarded to outstanding Canadians. As a Member of Parliament it is my privilege to award 30 medals to Canadians who have dedicated their volunteer time and effort to bettering the lives of Canadians. I am accepting nominations until September 3rd by email or letter to my constituency office. For more information about eligibility criteria visit www.gg.ca/diamondjubilee or my website. A committee of community leaders from Edmonton-Strathcona will assist me in choosing the recipients.



In the community



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1. With Muriel Stanley Venne, Robert Urbanoski and Robert Lee at the Social Justice Award Gala held by the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW). Each year, the IAAW awards an individual who has demonstrated outstanding effort in achieving social justice for Aboriginal women. Mr. Urbanoski was recognized for solving the 16 year old murder case of Helen Betty Osborne. Mr. Lee won the award in 2009. He is a lawyer who advocates to protect Aboriginal children in the child welfare system. 2. Edmonton Earth Day at Fort Edmonton Park, where children helped decorate our Earth Day tree with craft supplies from the ReUse Centre and grown ups signed environment-related petitions. 3. I had the pleasure of speaking at this year's Rich Man Poor Man dinner, hosted by the U of A's Office of Global Health. Thank you to Yazhini Subramanian, Christa Aubrey and Rabia Bana (pictured) and event organizers for raising awareness and funds to benefit Global Health student education. 4. With Donnan Community members, finalists in a CBC contest to win a natural playground, as they made their final bid to win the prize. Natural playgrounds are made of trees, rope, stones and other natural materials. Good luck to Donnan community as they work toward their goal! 5. When grade 2 students at Garneau School learned about endangered caribou in Alberta, they started a petition to save their habitat, which I had the honour of presenting in the House of Commons. 6. Caribou artwork by a Garneau School grade 2 student.