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Member of Parliament for Edmonton Strathcona

Linda Duncan

INSIDE: Healthcare Townhall with MP Libby Davies, NDP health critic • Cuts to science, refugee healthcare and co-operatives • "Lost Canadians" • Seniors facing growing debt • Information for travelling children • Changes to Canada Post • Parliamentary report on Ukraine • Photos •



Greetings! Memories of another glorious Edmonton summer of festivals has faded into fall and back to school. I wish to thank everyone who attended my summer gatherings to meet neighbours and discuss your pressing issues. Many constituents continue to express deep concerns about the Conservative omnibus budget bill, with its cuts to important federal programs and laws. Many are troubled by the changes to the age of eligibility for Old Age Security, reduced health support for refugees and the end of assistance for home energy retrofits. Concerns are being expressed about the future role of the federal government in health care. The most common complaint echoes those expressed across the country about the repeal and downgrading of federal environmental protection laws and deep cuts to science.

The universities in Edmonton-Strathcona are home to many of the world renowned scientists who have contributed over forty decades to ground breaking scientific advances on addressing impacts to freshwater through the internationally unique Experimental Lakes Area program. Ground breaking discoveries were made on addressing acid rain, mercury pollution and algal blooms. The



Celebrating universal suffrage during this year's Silly Summer Parade. Thank you Old Strathcona Foundation for awarding us the first prize!

decision to defund this program (dubbed by Conservatives as "wasteful spending") in tandem with cuts to monitoring and science is being decried by scientists worldwide. The esteemed international science journal *Nature* deemed the move "disturbing" and Canadian scientists have denounced it as "a systematic campaign to reduce the flow of scientific evidence to Canadians." These cuts come on the heels of defunding of critical polar research on climate change despite unprecedented melting of the polar ice cap.

I continue to work in tandem with my caucus colleagues in raising your concerns about threats to wilderness areas and National Parks, Library and Archives Canada, postal services, criminal rehabilitation

services and local programming at CBC. As your Member of Parliament I value your feedback in monitoring impacts of the erosion of

those federal programs and services we have come to value.

In the coming session the Official Opposition will continue pressing for action and public engagement on a new Health Accord with the Provinces, on a Canadian clean energy strategy and on a plan to ensure all seniors benefit from adequate pensions and benefits. I look forward to continued discussions about your priorities and concerns at our November 13 Townhall (details below).

Linda

Townhall on Healthcare with Linda & MP Libby Davies, NDP health critic

November 13 7:00 to 9:00 pm Townhall with Libby Davies & Linda Duncan on Healthcare

Join Linda Duncan and Libby Davies at Strathcona Community League hall (10139 87 Ave) for a discussion about the federal government's responsibilities towards affordable and quality healthcare for all Canadians.

*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 (Three months notice required)

Anniversaries: 60 years or more

Birthdays: 100 years or more

Requests must include a photocopy of the birth or wedding certificate

Prime Minister (Nine weeks notice required)

Anniversaries: 25 yrs and up at 5 year intervals

Birthdays: 75 years or more

Governor General (Nine weeks notice required)

Anniversaries: 50th–59th

Birthdays: 90th–99th

Linda F. Duncan, MP

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



How to Contact Linda Duncan

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Children Travelling Abroad

The Foreign Affairs website strongly recommends that children travelling abroad carry a consent letter from any person with a legal right to make decisions on their behalf, if that person is not accompanying the children on the trip. The recommendation from my staff is “don’t leave home without it”!

The purpose of the consent letter is to facilitate the travel of Canadian children while preventing their wrongful removal to foreign countries. Your children should have this letter if travelling overseas alone, with a group or with just one custodial parent. From what we’ve been told, immigration, customs and airline officials can ask for this letter both when you are leaving or returning to Canada.

For extra peace of mind, you should also have the letter certified by an official such as a commissioner for oaths, notary public or lawyer. The Foreign Affairs website has more advice and a sample letter: www.voyage.gc.ca and click on “Children and Travel”.

This website also contains other useful information for Canadians travelling abroad, such as travel reports and warnings and the addresses of Canadian offices overseas.



The Rule of Law, Democracy and Prosperity in Ukraine: A Canadian Parliamentary Perspective

This past May I travelled to Ukraine with a delegation from the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. We held meetings in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Lviv. The focus of the mission was to seek information on the recent backsliding of democracy and challenges with erosion of rule of law in Ukraine. We met with government and opposition parliamentarians, civic officials, civil society representatives and foreign investment advisors. We also met with the families and legal representatives for three of the jailed opposition party leaders. The full report of our study and recommendations can be found at www.lindaduncanmp.ca/ukrainereport

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.

Cuts clobber co-operatives

This summer the Government gave short shrift to Canadians' concerns about the future of co-operatives. After slashing the Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) and reducing the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat from 100 employees to just 15, Conservatives fast tracked a review by a special committee on co-operatives- months earlier than expected- despite troubling testimony about the impact these cuts will have on co-ops, a sector contributing substantially to our economy and to local communities. This October, New Democrats intend to continue the dialogue on cooperatives at the International Summit on Cooperatives in Quebec City.

"Lost Canadians"

Many of you have expressed concerns with the government's policy on "Lost Canadians". Children of World War II

veterans are currently disqualified from citizenship if they were born outside Canada prior to 1947, when Canada first established its own citizenship. M.P. Jinny Sims, New Democrat Critic for Citizenship and Immigration, has criticized as shameful the government's failure to address this problem in its recent amendments to immigration law.

Cuts to Refugee Healthcare

There was considerable outcry this spring when the government changed the law so that refugees will be denied critical healthcare services. The Interim Federal Health Program, which provided temporary health insurance to refugee applicants ineligible for regular coverage, was restructured to deny access by refugee claimants to treatment for illnesses such as diabetes. This has left many already vulnerable individuals, many escaping desperate situations, to increased risk from serious health problems. I wish to recognize University of Alberta's

Dr. Stan Houston, citizens groups such as the Canadian Council for Refugees and the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, advocacy groups like Public Interest Alberta and the refugee youth who have played a pivotal leadership role in speaking against these shortsighted cuts.

Cuts to Science

An analysis of the Conservative cuts to Canadian science and research and a call for continued investment in sound science are outlined in a report released by New Democrat Critic for Science and Technology Kennedy Stewart (Burnaby-Douglas). The report focuses on the elimination of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's (NSERC) Major Resources Support Program. Kennedy condemns the lack of consultation in making these cuts which undermine our country's long-standing commitment to basic science. The report is available at www.kennedystewart.ndp.ca.

Seniors facing debt

I am hearing far too frequently from seniors struggling to get by on minimal income and benefits. The Vanier Institute of the Family has reported that Canadians over the age of 65 face the highest national rate of insolvency and bankruptcy. They report that Canada's seniors are 17 times more at risk of becoming insolvent

than they were 20 years ago, a trend growing each year. My New Democrat Caucus and I believe that the federal government could play a crucial role in enabling Canadians to age in dignity. We are continuing to seek federal action on increasing the financial security of retirees by reinforcing the public pension system and protecting employees' retirement funds in the event of corporate bankruptcy. I welcome your views on measures to ensure adequate retirement income.

Changes at Canada Post

There is a reorganization of the way your mail is delivered. Canada Post has instituted some changes, which include more automation of mail sorting. This means that letter carriers will spend less time preparing their mail and more time outside. They are also being given vehicles and will be delivering both letters and parcels from now on. Canada Post believes these changes will make mail delivery more efficient and reliable. If you have any comments on your mail delivery, you can call Canada Post's customer service line at 1-800-607-6301. There is more information about how to contact Canada Post at its website www.canadapost.com - click on "contact us" at the bottom of the home page. This page will also give you information about the Canada Post Ombudsman. If you have an issue that you are having problems resolving, you can also call my office.



In the community



With Rachel Notley, MLA Edmonton-Strathcona at Dear Jack event in Grant Notley Park. Over 200 gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of Jack Layton



Balloon artist Glen LaValley preparing a treat for a young constituent at our annual summer BBQ



Congratulating and welcoming new Canadians at the Heritage Festival citizenship ceremony



Preparing pancakes at the Annual Canada Day pancake breakfast sponsored by Edmonton's Ismaili Community



Speaking at the rally organized by Edmonton's Seniors' Action Liaison Team against the Conservatives' omnibus budget bill C-38



Talking to constituents during the *Coffee and Desserts with Linda* event at Lendrum Community hall.



With the Parliamentary delegation to Ukraine this summer