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December 2010

Dear Friends

November was a difficult and alarming month in the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada. Two issues that have long been pivotal to my New Democrat colleagues and I were dealt shocking blows by the Conservatives and Liberals in both Houses – the Canadian mission in Afghanistan and the Climate Change Accountability Act.

Canadian Mission in Afghanistan

Stephen Harper's Conservatives – with the collusion of Michael Ignatieff's Liberals – turned their backs on their promise to end Canada's military involvement in Afghanistan and bring our troops home.

Canada's current mission was due to expire in 2011, with approximately 3000 Canadian troops home by July. The Conservative proposal to keep 1000 of these troops in Kabul until 2014 for a combat-training mission is considerably different than the civilian and development mission promised by the Prime Minister in June of this year.

I think it is important to look at the facts surrounding Canada's mission in Afghanistan.

An October 2010 Angus Reid poll found that the majority (55%) of Canadians oppose Canada's involvement in the war in Afghanistan, while only 35% support it. Since 2002, 152 members of the Canadian Forces have been killed serving in the Afghanistan mission. At least 1,500 Canadian troops have been wounded. Canada's troop commitment in Afghanistan is larger than 37 other countries.

The only complete estimate of the cost of the war is the October 2008 Parliamentary Budget Officer report which was prepared in response to a request by my New Democrat colleague, Paul Dewar, MP. The estimated cost is up to \$18 billion - assuming a 2011 pullout. Estimates by the Parliamentary Budget Officer project the costs of a 1000 troop extension to be between \$3 to \$3.5 billion dollars.

Twice the Liberals have agreed to a 3-year extension of the war. We were told that

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Upcoming deadlines for submissions:

January 2011 - December 15, 2010

February 2011 - January 15, 2011

just three more years would bring peace and stability in Afghanistan. That hasn't happened yet, and it is widely reported that security is actually decreasing in Afghanistan.

The Conservatives broke their promises, engaged in this backroom deal with the Ignatieff Liberals, and are refusing to put extending the mission to a vote in the House. That's irresponsible, unethical and wrong.

Our troops have served with honour, done their fair share and should now be coming home.

We need strong international leadership on Afghanistan – and New Democrats are calling for a new focus on civilian power – diplomacy, development and governance in Afghanistan. That – rather than military action – is how we will help build a lasting peace in the region.

Bill C-311 – The Climate Change Accountability Act

On November 17, Stephen Harper's appointed Conservative Senators quietly voted to kill a critical environment bill in the Senate.

Bill C-311, the Climate Change Accountability Act, received final approval by the House of Commons on May 5 when it passed Third Reading by a vote of 149-136. On November 17, without any notice or warning, and without any debate or hearings, the bill was defeated in the Senate by a snap vote of 43-32. Unfortunately, 16 Liberal Senators were absent for this crucial vote.

This bill had received final approval from **elected** Members of Parliament, and yet Stephen Harper's unelected Senators killed it: so much for the chamber of sober second thought!

As a result of this bill's defeat, Canada now heads to the UN climate change meetings in Cancun completely empty handed. Despite endless promises to act on climate change, the Harper government has not even tabled one law to address our rising greenhouse gas emissions.

The Climate Change Accountability Act would have set tough but achievable targets and gone a long way to ensuring Canada played its part in the fight against climate change. It is unprecedented for the unelected Senate to defeat a Private Member's Bill passed by the elected House of Commons; in fact, no House of Commons bill has been defeated by the Senate at second reading since before World War II.

Stephen Harper promised to be different. Instead he immediately stacked the Senate with unelected, unaccountable Senators -- and directed them to overrule the elected representatives of the Canadian people.

This is a truly offensive act against Canadians and demonstrates once again why it is long past time to abolish the unnecessary and undemocratic Senate.

Bill

Federal Government Programs and Services



Federal Budget 2011 – Have Your Say!

What are your priorities for the upcoming federal budget? What steps do you think the Government of Canada should be taking to address our economy, jobs and household budgets?

Do you think the Conservative's Economic Action Plan has done enough to create jobs and support communities? Or do you think they need to maintain their stimulus commitments? Should they be reforming Employment Insurance to keep struggling Canadians off the welfare rolls and get them back on their feet faster? And what are they doing to make life more affordable so families are not drowning in debt?

You can have your say by joining the federal government's on-line budget consultations at <http://www.fin.gc.ca/prebudget-prebudgetaire/1-eng.asp>. You can also find out about other approaches to the federal budget by visiting the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives website to view their ongoing work on the "Alternative Federal Budget" at <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/projects/alternative-federal-budget>.

Live the Action on the Hill as a PAGE

Each year, 40 students are selected from high schools and CEGEPs across Canada to come to Ottawa and work as Pages in the House of Commons. Pages have the opportunity to learn about the House of Commons while witnessing the legislative process first hand. Those hired as Pages work on a part-time basis during their first year of study at one of the universities in the National Capital Region.

To qualify, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident;
- be graduating from a secondary school or a CEGEP (with no academic interruptions) and be accepted and commencing full-time studies at one of the four universities in the National Capital Region in September of the page year (Carleton University, University of Ottawa, Saint Paul University or Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO));
- have an overall academic average of at least 80% in the transcript of your final marks from last year as well as maintain this average in subsequent transcripts of your marks; and
- be able to communicate fluently in both official languages as evaluated by the House of Commons.



In addition to these basic requirements, Pages must also possess superior interpersonal skills; show sound judgement, be reliable, tactful, and courteous; and demonstrate an interest in the Canadian parliamentary system.

The application deadline is January 7, 2011. For more information or to apply online, visit <http://www.parl.gc.ca/hocpage>.



HOME IN BURNABY

The next deadline for the Burnaby-Douglas Link is **December 15, 2010** for distribution after **January 1, 2011**. Submissions can be faxed to my Community Office at 604-666-0727 or emailed to me at Siksay.B@parl.gc.ca.

Burnaby Task Force on Homelessness

Volunteers and donations are urgently needed for the Extreme Weather Shelter - the recent cold weather has resulted in the opening of the Extreme Weather Shelter in Burnaby. The Extreme Weather Shelter is opened on a weather dependent basis between October and April when the weather is deemed too unsafe for people to be outside. The Extreme Weather Shelter is located at 7540 6th Street in Burnaby. The hours of operation are: 7:00 pm until 7:00 am. Although this is a staffed resource, volunteers are needed to assist with the efficient operations of the shelter.

In the early evening volunteers are needed to set up the extreme weather shelter (put out mats and bedding, prepare and serve food) and at 6:00am volunteers are needed to assist with the "clean up" of the extreme weather shelter and transportation of bedding to the laundry. If you can volunteer time within the Extreme Weather Shelter, please call Kevan Oxley @ 604-433-4829 and/or Sherrill Gullickson @ 604.523-9126 ext. 104.

Please note that donations of towels, socks, underwear and food are also greatly needed and can be dropped off at Progressive Housing, 7836 6th Street, Burnaby or at the New Southeast District Community Police Office, 7191 Arcola Way behind Highgate, telephone 604-656-3275.

Progressive Housing Society is preparing for Outreach Christmas on Thursday, December 23. This event is an opportunity for people who are challenged by homelessness to enjoy a welcoming festive atmosphere in the midst of an often challenging holiday season.

Progressive Housing relies on the financial support and donations to make this event a success. At present, financial donations to the Homeless Outreach Program are very low. Financial donations to Progressive Housing Society Homeless Outreach Program would be greatly appreciated.

At Outreach Christmas a present is given to those in attendance. Anyone having obsolete or demo items which could be put in together with other small items would be greatly appreciated (for example, note pads, pens, nail clippers, flashlights, wrapped candy, fruit, fruit juice boxes). Any items which could be used for door prizes or bingo prizes would also be appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at Progressive Housing Society 7836 6th St Burnaby. For more information, contact Cheryl Stogren, Supervisor of the Homeless Outreach Program at 604-522-9669 ext 317 .



Abbeyfield House - A Warm and Intimate Seniors' Residence- has immediate openings for seniors looking for a "home within a home". Abbeyfield House can house twenty seniors but currently has space for several more individuals. Abbeyfield House offers a warm family-style environment balancing privacy and companionship, security and independence, combined with the special caring element provided by dedicated staff and volunteers.

Abbeyfield Burnaby is an affordable seniors' residence that offers independence along with support for older people who wish to remain active contributors to their community. Abbeyfield Burnaby residents contribute to the planning and organization of a special place that meets their needs. Rent is \$1675 per month and includes meals.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in finding out more, visit <http://www.abbeyfield-burnaby.com> or call 604-205-9350.

2011 Multifaith Calendar - the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA) are now selling their 2011 Multifaith Calendars. This outstanding wall calendar combines compelling visuals celebrating diversity with all of the information and 2011 dates for 14 of the world's major spiritual paths. To purchase a calendar, visit the AMSSA Store at <http://www.amssa.org/AMSSAStore01.html>.



Calling All Angels - Burnaby Community Connections is looking for is a **Angel Card delivery/Toy Pick-up Volunteer Driver.**

The Burnaby Christmas Bureau helps low income families in Burnaby have a brighter holiday season by providing toys and food certificates. **The Angel project is our toy drive program.**

We provide groups, companies and schools interested in collecting toys with decorative angel themed cards with names and ages of children on it. **We are looking for volunteers to help deliver these cards and pick up toys from various locations within Burnaby.** Must be between business hours, no evening and weekend opportunities available. Please contact Justine Marshall at 604-299-5778 ext 29 or at justine@burnabycommunityconnections.com for further information on how to get involved.



The **Wildlife Rescue Association of BC (WRA)** based at Burnaby Lake has been chosen as one of the organizations bidding for cash in the latest Pepsi Refresh Campaign which funds community projects across Canada.

If the WRA wins it plans to use the money to fund a digital radiography suite for injured wildlife, which will be the first of its kind in Western Canada.

People who would like to support the “Wildlife Rescue” project can log onto the Pepsi Refresh website at <http://www.refresheverything.ca>. The WRA is listed in the \$100,000 category and supporters simply set up an account to vote. Each person can vote once a day, every day until December 31. For more information, please contact Wildlife Rescue Association at 604 526 2747 or visit <http://www.wildliferescue.ca>.



Burnaby Meals on Wheels promotes health and independence by providing nutritious, local and affordable food to people who- for physical, social or economic reasons- are unable to meet their dietary needs. **Volunteers are the driving force of our society. We provide opportunities for compassionate individuals to help bring joy, health and independence to Burnaby residents and contributing to the improvement of our community.**

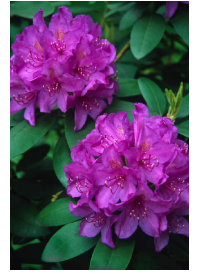
To become a volunteer today please contact our program coordinator Justine Marshall at 604-299-5778 ext.29 or by e-mail, justine@mealsonwheels-burnaby.com for information on how to sign up. You may also visit our website at www.mealsonwheels-burnaby.com to read more about Burnaby Meals on Wheels.

L'Arche Greater Vancouver invites you to Coffeehouse Evenings - all events are held at South Burnaby United Church Hall, 7591 Gray Avenue, Burnaby. Join us for refreshments and fellowship. Some items will be for sale. The next coffeehouse will be the L'Arche Talent Show on Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Come and show your talent. For more information, please contact us at 604-435-9544.



International Day of Persons with Disabilities Annual Celebration, Friday, December 3, 5:30 – 9pm, Roundhouse Community Centre, (Downtown Vancouver: corner of Pacific/Davie). Art, Craft Fair, Music, Performers, Food, Door prizes! Mayor Robertson opens event at 5:30pm. Everyone welcome. Admission free. **Celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities.** Sponsored by the City of Vancouver. For information <http://vancouverdisabilities.ca> (our site is being updated at the moment) or call (604) 608-0384.

Burnaby and Rhododendron and Gardens Society Upcoming Events



The Burnaby and Rhododendron and Gardens Society (BRAGS) is pleased to present their upcoming events for the fall and winter season. The location for all events is the Burnaby Village Museum, 2nd floor, Discovery Room, 6450 Deer Lake Parkway. The event begin at 7:45 PM. For more information, contact info@brags.ca or call Lanny at 604-205-9023.

January 5, 2011 “Ikebana: Talk and Demo” by Beverley-Ann Ranney. Beverley-Ann has a deep interest in Ikebana for many years. In 1961, she began studying ikebana at the Japanese Cultural Centre under the guidance Shizujko Kadoguchi, President of the Ikenobo Society of America-Toronto Chapter. In 1974, she went to Japan for advanced classes at the centuries – old home school of Ikenobo the family name Ikenobo ikebana which has had direct line of 45 headmasters for life. Over the years, she progressed through the rigorous levels of ikebana until she was honored this year with the Professor of Ikenobo 1st Grade full professorship in Ikebana. For more information about Ikebana in Vancouver, please visit www.vancouver-ikebana.ca

February 2, 2011 “New Trends in Gardening” by Brian Minter. Brian’s passion for plants was transformed into 32-acre Minter Gardens which today draws thousands of visitors each year, and has become a favourite destination for weddings. He is ‘BC’s go-to garden expert’ through his experience at both the garden centre and the display gardens. As such, he has hosted countless radio and television shows, is a frequent gardening columnist, and is the author of Canadian Best Seller, Brian Minter’s New Gardening Guide - Fresh Approaches for Canadian Gardeners.



Heritage Christmas at Burnaby Village Museum & Carousel - runs from Nov 27 - Dec 15, 12noon - 4:30pm, daily and from Dec 16 - Jan 2, 2010, 12noon - 8pm, daily. The Museum will be closed on Dec 24 and 25.

Experience the magic of an old-fashioned Christmas - the smell of cedar and pine boughs, festive wreathes with bright red bows, and the sound of carollers remind visitors of Christmases past and present. **Highlights include:** Performances by Footlight Theatre, Queen Storytime, Rainforest Theatre and the Elwoodette Marionettes; The 12 Days of Christmas Scavenger Hunt; Heritage Crafts; Party in the Parlour.

Call or check the website at www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca for information on the entertainment schedules.

Burnaby Village Museum & Carousel is located at 6501 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby. For more information, call 604-297-4565, email to bvm@burnaby.ca or visit burnabyvillagemuseum.ca .

Burnaby Writers Society - The BWS is, first and foremost, a community-oriented group dedicated to mutual support and encouragement, with an emphasis on skill development and a professional approach to writing and marketing. Membership is open to anyone, anywhere, at any level of expertise, with an interest in writing.

The BWS is committed to advancing the skills and careers of its membership. We offer a wide variety of programs which include our monthly 'Spoken INK' Reading Series and Featured Readers, monthly and special workshops, a bi-monthly newsletter, and an annual writing contest .

To find out more about upcoming writing competitions, events and workshops, visit the BWS website at <http://www.bws.bc.ca/>.



**BURNABY SENIORS
OUTREACH SERVICES SOCIETY**

Seniors Helping Seniors

**Burnaby Senior's Outreach
Services Society**

Burnaby Family Caregivers will be offering a range of programs for boomers who are caring for elderly parents, or seniors caring for a frail spouse. Upcoming workshops include:

Pre-planning for the Care and Independence of Older Family Members: Keeping Their Voices Heard Family Caregivers and their care recipients benefit from discussing the health care wishes of older family members, in the event of incapacity. Presented by Marcia Carr (RN, BN, MS, GNC(C), NCA), Clinical Nurse Specialist - Fraser Health Older Adult Program, Burnaby Hospital. Monday, Nov. 29th, 1:30 – 3:30 pm. Metrotown Library, 6100 Willingdon.

All programs are free for family caregivers who live in Burnaby, or are caring for a Burnaby adult resident, and are facilitated by gerontologist Katherine Willett.

The Burnaby Family Caregivers Project offers a support group for families who are caring (unpaid) for an elderly family member. The group meets every other Saturday morning. Call BSOSS for more info at 604 291 2258.

Watch www.bsoss.org for upcoming dates of our programs, or email bsoss@telus.net or phone us at 604 241 0485 to have your name put on our autumn program notice list.

Health Alert for Seniors

Health Alert, Mondays at Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby and Health Watch, Thursdays at Edmonds Community Centre, 7282 Kingsway, Burnaby.



Drop-in each week for blood pressure and weight monitoring, health, nutrition, and housing information and other services. Support from retired nurses, pharmacists and knowledgeable, trained volunteers can help you practice a healthy lifestyle. Weekly speakers keep you abreast of the latest health trends.

Bonsor Centre Health Alert presentations for December: December 6, “Let’s travel to Africa...(Funny)”; **December 13**, “Foot care (make appointment - paid service)”. Centre reopens on January 10, 2011.

Edmonds Centre Health Watch presentations for November: December 2, “Managing your osteoarthritis, Part 1”; **December 9**, “Managing your osteoarthritis, Part 2”; **December 16**, “Foot care (make appointment - paid service)”. Centre reopens January 6, 2011.



Bonsor Seniors Centre Upcoming Events - all events are located at the Bonsor Recreation Complex , 6550 Bonsor Ave, Burnaby. For more information, please call 604-439-5510.

Bonsor Complex Carpet Bowling

Looking for a fun and entertaining way to beat the winter weather. Come join the Bonsor 55+ carpet bowlers’. This group meets every Monday and Thursday from 1-3pm. 55+ membership is required. For information please call 604-439-5517.

Tuesday and Thursday Dance At Bonsor Complex

Dance the winter blues away at Bonsor 55+ dance programs. Tuesday dances run from 12noon-3pm and Thursday Night dance goes from 7:30-10:30pm. Fee \$5.00 for members and \$6.00 for non members. Each dance has a live band and light refreshments served For more information please call 604-439-5510.



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