



In this issue:

- **Changes to the refugee process**
- **Public disclosure of MP expenses**
- **Assistance with federal government applications for services and benefits**

June 2010

Dear Friends

In this issue of my newsletter, I would like to address several important issues that have generated questions from many of my constituents – the recent changes to the refugee process, the question of public disclosure of MP expenses, and businesses that offer assistance with federal government applications to the public at a cost.

Changes to the refugee process

New Democrats have long pushed for fast and fair reform to the present refugee determination process. The Conservative government recently announced changes to the refugee process and, while fast tracking the entire process is a welcome change, I am concerned that every refugee claimant may not be treated equally.

Canada is known around the world as a place of compassion, a country that reaches out to those who are persecuted and provides safe haven for families in danger. However, the Conservative government's refugee reforms creates a two-tier system where some refugees will be discriminated against based on where they are from and refused the right to appeal. Conservatives want to decide which countries deserve our compassion and which countries don't. This is quite simply unfair.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says that even in democracies there are still grounds for persecution based on gender or sexual identity. These are the refugees—mostly women—who will lose out thanks to the Conservative plan. The situation of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and transgender refugees is similar.

My New Democrat colleagues and I have a better plan, one that creates a more efficient refugee determination process.

New Democrats are instead calling on the government to hire more permanent refugee protection officers to ensure all claimants get a fair hearing in a timely manner. Furthermore, the government should crack down on unscrupulous immigration consultants who exploit our refugee system.

continued on page 2.

Upcoming deadlines for submissions:

July 2010 - June 15, 2010

August 2010 - July 15, 2010

continued from page 1.

Canadians agree that our refugee system should be efficient, but also fair. Our reputation as a compassionate nation depends on it.

Public Disclosure of MP expenses

As you will know, there is a currently a vigorous debate about the disclosure of MP expenses and the role of the Auditor General of Canada in scrutinizing the spending of the House of Commons. This situation is changing almost daily, and as I write, I expect there will be movement on the issue shortly.

In the meantime, I have added a "Public Disclosure" link on my website that will make it easy to access key information about spending that is already disclosed. You can find that link at www.BillSiksay.ca - select "About Bill" and then "Bill's Public Disclosure Information".

Assistance with applications for federal government services or benefits

My community office is here to assist residents of Burnaby-Douglas with any help they may need to complete application forms for services that are provided by any federal government agency or department. **My community office and my staff provide this service free of charge** to any resident of my constituency, Burnaby-Douglas.

It has come to my attention that there are several private companies offering similar services to the public for a fee or a percentage of the benefit you may ultimately receive.

I'd urge you to contact my office for free assistance before contracting with this kind of private service. We may be able to provide the same assistance without charge, saving you money. Please don't hesitate to contact my staff at 604-291-8863 or by emailing me at Siksay.B@parl.gc.ca with any inquiries you may have in this regard.

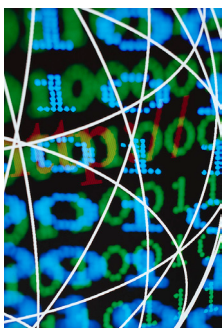
As always, I look forward to hearing your views on this and other issues of the day or assisting you on any matter within federal jurisdiction. Please do not hesitate to contact me at my Community Office at 4506 Dawson Street, telephone 604-291-8863, email Siksay.B@parl.gc.ca. For more information about my work in Ottawa and Burnaby, please visit my website at www.billsiksay.ca.

Bill



HOME IN BURNABY

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



Digital Economy Consultations - Digital technologies are critical to every aspect of our economy and society. That is why a strategy for the digital economy is needed to ensure that Canada is positioned to benefit from the opportunities that it presents. All Canadians have a role to play in helping shape Canada's digital future. **Your perspectives, suggestions, ideas and submissions will be important inputs in the creation of our digital strategy.**

The following consultation portal provides an opportunity for local input into Industry Canada's consultations - <http://de-en.gc.ca/home/>.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) will be holding telecom consultations beginning October 25, 2010. This review will examine issues associated with access to basic telecommunications services, including the obligation to serve, the basic service objective, and local service subsidy. It will also re-examine the local competition and wireless number portability frameworks in the territories of the small incumbent local exchange carriers and the appropriateness of the existing forbearance framework for mobile wireless data services. **If you are interested in taking part in this consultation, visit <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2010/2010-43.htm> to find out how you can take part in this review.**



Are you dealing with a consumer issue? The Office of Consumer Affairs has several resources that might

be helpful to you including the Canadian Consumer Handbook and “The Complaint Courier”, a handy interactive tool for figuring out where to direct your complaint. Visit http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ic1.nsf/eng/h_00071.html for more resources and information.

Doing Business with the Government of Canada? Need more information

on how you can promote your goods and services? The Canadian federal government is a huge market for businesses large and small. As a supplier wanting to sell to the government, you need basic information on how the purchasing is done, who the contacts are and, most importantly, how you can find opportunities. **The Contracts Canada website can help you get started.** To find out more, and to download your own copy of “Your Guide to Doing Business with the Government of Canada”, visit <http://www.contractsCanada.gc.ca/entreprises-businesses-eng.html>.

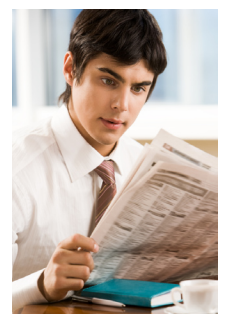


Looking for a summer job? If you are between the ages of 15 and 30, Burnaby Public Library and the Burnaby Service Canada Centre for Youth want to assist you with your employment needs through a series of information sessions.

Sessions will include information on writing resumes and cover letters, job search techniques, interview skills and much more. All sessions are on a drop-in basis, no registration is required. **All sessions will take place at the following Burnaby Public Library locations:**

Metrotown, 6100 Willingdon Avenue on June 9 from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM and June 11 from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM; McGill, 4595 Albert Street on June 3 from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM; Tommy Douglas, 7311 Kingsway on June 14 from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM and June 28 from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. You can also receive one on one resume advice after each session at no charge. For more information, contact 604-436-5400.

The Burnaby Service Canada Centre for Youth (SCCY) is now open. The SCCY offers a variety of services that benefit both youth and employers. **The Centre conducts workshops and events throughout the community to provide job search information and reinforce the Hire a Youth message.** Employers and youth can visit the Burnaby SCCY between 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM at 4279 Canada Way. Job postings are available online at www.jobbank.gc.ca under “Student/Youth Job Search”, “British Columbia”, “Vancouver/Surrey/Fraser Valley” and then “Burnaby”. For more information, contact the Burnaby SCCY at 604-437-3761 ext 224 or email kevin.au@servicecanada.gc.ca.



Habitat for Humanity Greater Vancouver Annual General Meeting – please join us on Wednesday, June 16 at 6:30 PM at New Life Community Church, 8765 Government Street in Burnaby. Everyone is welcome. In order to be eligible to vote, you must be a member. Please RSVP to info@vancouverhabitat.bc.ca or call 604-681-5618 ext 21 by no later than Friday, June 11, 2010.



YMCA Summer Work Student Exchange Program is a national program offering opportunities for students who are 16 to 17 years old to improve their second language skills while gaining important employment experiences. This program is made possible through the financial support of the Government of Canada with participant travel sponsored by VIA Rail Canada. Participants will be enthusiastic youth with a basic ability in either French or English as a second language. The exchanges last 6 weeks starting at the end of June. Participants will be hosted by a family in their twin community and will also be provided with appropriate paid employment placement. A \$50 participant fee will be required if accepted. The cost of transportation and planned local activities will be covered by the program. For more information, visit www.summer-work.com.

The Apex Summer Adventure Program is a partnership between New Westminster Parks, Culture and Recreation, Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and the Lower Mainland Purpose Society. It's a free program that provides at-risk youth aged 13-18 years from Burnaby and New Westminster with an opportunity to participate in activity based out trips throughout July and August. **Apex is designed to help youth build connection to each other and community by providing activities that not only challenge youth physically but help youth develop social skills, communication skills, and team building.** Registration forms are available by emailing apex@purposesociety.org



The Aviva Community Fund – This year, Aviva Canada is offering up to \$1,000,000 to help you build a better community. Starting in the fall, you will have an opportunity to submit a new idea for community improvement. **Canadians will then choose which ideas will have a chance at sharing in the \$1,000,000 Aviva Community Fund.** Start thinking about how the Aviva Community Fund can help you build a better community. Talk to the people in our community, charitable organizations you care about, and don't forget to explore last year's ideas for inspiration. For more information, visit <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/>.



The North Burnaby Community Policing office invites you to the 3rd Annual North Burnaby Safety Forum. You are invited to attend this open community forum on Wednesday, June 9 from 6 PM to 9 PM at the Confederation Community Centre, 4585 Albert Street, Burnaby.

Speakers will include Mayor Derek Corrigan, Officer in Charge of Burnaby RCMP Chief Superintendent Rick Taylor and other representatives. This is your opportunity to improve public safety in Burnaby. We want to hear from you. We want to be "Partners for a Safe Community". For more information, call you Community Police Office – Hastings Brentwood at 604-656-3250 or Lougheed Burnaby Mountain at 604-656-3200 or visit our website at www.burnaby.ca/whatsnew.



You are invited to the Kinder Morgan Burnaby Terminal Community Open House on Saturday, June 26 from 10 AM to 3 PM at 8099 Shellmont Street, at the north end of Underhill Avenue in Burnaby. Bring your family for a tour of our facility, enjoy kid-friendly activities, refreshments, and meet our staff. Please join us for this free, family friendly event. For more information, please call 604-268-3000.



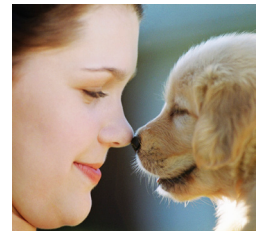
2010 Local Hero Awards Call for Nominations - The City of Burnaby is seeking nominations for the 2010 Local Hero Award Program. **Local Heroes are people of any age group or background who have made outstanding contributions to community well-being.** Priority will be given to nominees who have contributed to the community for a minimum of five years through a minimum of two activities. Local Heroes are presented with certificates and publicly recognized at a City Council meeting. To submit a nomination, visit www.burnaby.ca/whatsnew to obtain a nomination form. For more information, contact 604-294-7290. Deadline for submitting nominations is June 30, 2010.





Charlford House is celebrating 40 years of providing a supportive recovery home for women who are ready to move on from their substance addiction. The 40th Anniversary picnic is a celebration for all whose lives have been touched by Charlford House. Please join us on Saturday, July 17 from 11 AM to 4 PM at Barnet Marine Park, 8383 Barnet Highway, Burnaby. There will be games for the whole family, food, fun and fellowship. Bring a blanket, bring a chair and bring one for a friend! Please call 604-420-6601 to register.

Are you interested in welcoming a dog into your family? Check out Turtle Gardens Animal Shelter, located in Topley, BC. Started in 1988 when there were no shelters of any kind for 250 miles from Prince George to Terrace, Turtle Gardens is run by the amazing Labatte family who have found happy homes for over 4000 dogs since it first opened. **More dogs need help and there are not enough homes in Northern BC.** Do you want a dog who is energetic or a couch potato? Young or mature? Tall or Short? Long haired or sleek? Turtle Gardens is great at matching people and dogs. **Turtle Garden Dogs are vet checked, vaccinated, spayed or neutered and are regularly delivered to Southern BC and Vancouver.** Visit the website often - new dogs arrive almost daily. For more information, visit www.turtlegardens.org.



Kensington Community Fair - Fun for the whole family! Come & enjoy a BBQ lunch while watching talented on-stage entertainment. Stroll through Kensington Park stopping at each fun, interactive display or creative activity run by numerous local organizations & clubs. There are lots of fun activities for the young & young-at-heart! The fair takes place on Saturday August 7, 10am-3pm at Kensington Park, (Kensington & Hastings). For more information, please call 604-671-1000.



Parents Together is a mutual help and support program for parents of teens who want to develop new skills that will help to end the conflict in their homes. Weekly group meetings are facilitated and structured so that the issues of most concern to the parents in the group are discussed and problem-solved. The emphasis is on sharing, supporting, and problem-solving. The program helps parents to explore ways to improve communication skills, resolve conflicts, build positive relationships and get a better understanding of natural family transitions. Parents can access the program by contacting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Vancouver Lower Mainland Office at 604-325-0556. To learn more about this and other programs, visit www.boysandgirlsclubsbc.ca.



Upcoming 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.

Edmonds Centre Health Alert presentations for June 2010: June 3, "How to prevent falls"; June 10, "Walkabouts: increasing overall wellness"; June 17, "How to take care of your thyroid"; June 24, "Foot clinic – make appointment". **Bonsor Centre Health Watch presentations for June 2010:** June 14, "Free Hearing Screening – make appointment"; June 21, "Increase wellness with walkabouts and energy bursts", June 28, "Foot clinic – make appointment". For more information, contact Bonsor at 604-439-1456 or Edmonds at 604-524-4261.