



This Month

- **Earthquake in Haiti**
- **Prorogation Flies in the Face of Democracy**

February 2010

Dear Friends

The recent **earthquake which has devastated much of Haiti**, leaving thousands dead and an estimated 1.5 million homeless, has seen the nations and people of the world, including Canada, come together to offer aid and support. My New Democrat colleagues and I send our condolences and support to the people of Haiti and the Canadian-Haitian community.

Foreign Affairs Canada will provide assistance in obtaining information on Canadian citizens who were in Haiti at the time of the earthquake - please contact them directly at 1-800-387-3124. Residents of Burnaby-Douglas who continue to have problems obtaining assistance with matters resulting from the earthquake in Haiti from either the Department of Foreign Affairs or Citizenship and Immigration Canada (regarding a sponsorship of a family member or adopted child) should contact my office at 604-291-8863 or Siksay.B@parl.gc.ca. My staff and I would be pleased to assist in any way possible. I would also urge everyone to donate as you are able to a relief organization or agency working in Haiti.

Closer to home, I remain very concerned by **Prime Minister Harper's decision to yet again prorogue Parliament.**

Suspending sittings of the House to try to "change the channel" and prevent Parliamentary and media scrutiny of government legislation and government decisions flies in the face of democracy.

This decision also flies in the face of the Conservatives' own agenda. When they allow Parliament to sit, the Conservatives claim that there are urgent legislative priorities that demand immediate attention, especially in areas of the economy and criminal justice, and yet now they are solely responsible for completely short-circuiting consideration of those bills. All too often the Conservatives have called opposition members obstructionist for debating and asking questions about government bills. No opposition tactic has ever been as successful at disrupting the Conservative legislative agenda as Prime Minister Harper's own move to kill all government legislation on the Parliamentary agenda using prorogation.

There are also significant accountability issues before Parliament-the ongoing push by the Conservatives to implement the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), their failure to answer important questions about prisoner detention and torture in Afghanistan, a miserable pre - and post - Copenhagen record on the environment and climate change and court criticism that at least two cabinet ministers failed to meet their responsibilities with regard to the security certificate process. It is clear that Prime Minister Harper would prefer that Canadians simply forget these issues.

Prime Minister Harper is wrong and has made a big mistake by proroguing the House at this time.

continued on page 2.

Upcoming deadlines for submissions:

March 2010 - February 15, 2010

April 2010 - March 15, 2010

continued from page 1.

This move has challenged our Parliamentary democracy. Many Canadians agree. A group of over 150 Canadian academics have signed on to a statement regarding this undemocratic move by the Prime Minister stating that the "Prime Minister's actions risk setting a precedent that weakens an important condition of democratic government – the ability of the people, acting through their elected representatives, to hold the government accountable for its actions." For more on their statement, please visit <http://www.noproration-nonprorogation.ca/>.

I and my New Democrat colleagues remain committed to doing all we can to press on these and other issues of importance to Canadians. Parliament should be meeting. Time away from Ottawa for the Olympics is not appropriate. As I write, my New Democrat colleagues and I are meeting to plan our approach to this recent move by the Conservative government. I was also in Ottawa on January 25 when the House should have resumed.

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

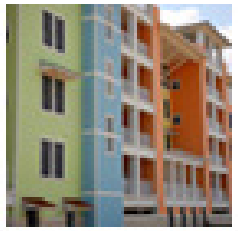
2010 CALENDAR CORRECTION

Please note that there is an error in my 2010 calendar for the month of April - the 22nd day of April is missing. Please ensure that you update that page to avoid missing any important appointments or events. I have included a replacement page in this month's newsletter for your convenience. I apologize for any inconvenience this error may cause.



HOME IN BURNABY

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



Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) will soon announce the second call for applications under their two year funding agreement to address the needs of the existing social housing units directly administered by CMHC. The original \$150 million in federal funding was targeted, under the Renovation and Retrofit of Existing Social Housing Initiative to off-reserve federally funded and administered social housing units currently subject to an operating agreement under a National Housing Act social housing program. Of the available \$150 million, \$75 million was allocated in 2009/10, leaving the remaining \$75 million to be allocated in 2010/11.

The objective of this funding is to help address the demand for renovations and general improvements; the need for energy efficiency upgrades or conversions, and modifications for persons with disabilities; and to create jobs.

The 2010-11 application call will open on February 1, 2010 and close February 22, 2010. Applications will not be accepted prior to February 1, 2010 and must be received or postmarked no later than February 22, 2010. Applications will be approved by CMHC taking into account the timing of receipt of the application and the timeline for commencement and completion of the renovation and retrofit work. **Applicants must have the capacity to undertake the work within a short time frame and must meet all other eligibility criteria. Work must commence within three months of approval, failing which CMHC may cancel the commitment at its sole discretion.** For more information, visit http://www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan/eresoho/apply_online.cfm or call 1-800-668-2642.



Burnaby Family Caregivers will be offering “Resources in Burnaby for Family Caregivers” presentations for unpaid family & friend caregivers on Wednesday, April 12, 7-8:30pm, at the McGill Library, 4595 Albert Street and on Saturday, April 17, 10:30am- Noon, at the Holdom Resource Centre, Holdom and Lougheed. Also offered is a six week “Family (Unpaid) Caregiver Education Program” for those providing care to an older family member. Learn about resources for families in Burnaby including Fraser Health Authority services, seniors housing options, legal personal planning tools such as representation agreements and enduring powers of attorney, end of life care, and more. This course

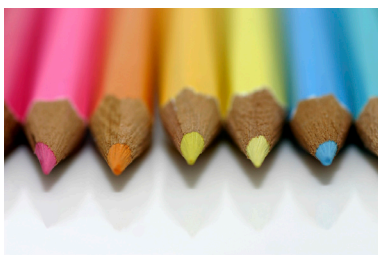
will take place beginning Saturdays, 10am to noon, from April 24 – May 29. Registration for the full six week program is required.

The 2nd annual “Burnaby Caregivers Information Fair” with 30 exhibit tables and speakers about services for caregivers will be held Saturday, April 10, 10-2pm at Bonsor Community Centre. If you work for a Burnaby company, non-profit or government office, we can also come to your workplace to give short “Lunch ‘n Learn” presentation. These programs are a project of Burnaby Seniors Outreach Services Society. The services are free and facilitated by gerontologist Katherine Willett. Registration is required – call 604-734-3054.



Breaking Down the Barriers - Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table, in partnership with the Burnaby Board of Trade, is offering a series of six workplace tours of Burnaby and New Westminister companies. Each of the six tours will provide an opportunity for approximately 20 immigrant job seekers to participate in a tour of three companies. The participating companies will provide a tour of their facilities and host a “meet and greet”. Participants will share information about their experience from their home country, their professional backgrounds, and their work search in the local labour market. The employer hosts will introduce the company, its industry, its work culture and possibilities related to mentorship, work experience/employment, etc. These tours are not employment matching events, but rather, an opportunity for both the employer and the newcomer participants to

share and ask questions in a “no pressure” environment. The First Tour will be Health Care on February 9 and the Second Tour will be Engineering on March 23. Upcoming tours also include: Finance and Accounting; Business Management and Administration; and Information Technology and Computer Science. To get more information, you must attend an information session. For more information or to register, please contact Iris Sun at iris.sun@peersonline.ca or call 778-319-2268.



Burnaby Writers’ Society Spoken INK open mic readings are held every third Tuesday from September to June at the James Street Café, 3819 Canada Way in Burnaby. On February 16 at 8 PM, join local poets and arts promoters Bonnie Nish and Sita Carboni as they read from their own work. The theme for February is Echo. Open mic sign up time is 7:30 PM. For more information, visit www.BurnabyWritersNews.blogspot.com or contact bwscafe@gmail.com. **First Book Competition – the Writer’s Studio at Simon Fraser University seeks original, book-length manuscripts by emerging Canadian writers who have not previously**

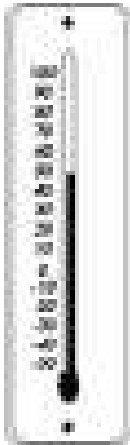
published a book. The winning manuscript, in each of three contest categories of fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry, will be published by Anvil Press of Vancouver in 2011. Deadline for submissions is May 31, 2010. Complete information is posted on our website www.thewritersstudio.ca.

The Canadian Red Cross Society, Lower Mainland Region is looking for volunteers - The Operation/Facility department is looking for volunteers to provide support to the reception area. We need volunteers to come in on a regular basis to cover reception. **Responsibilities include handling a front line switchboard; good telephone manner; able to deal with the public; provide general administrative assistance; able to handle inquiries via telephone and from walk in clients; strong interpersonal and communications skill and good English** For more information, contact Golnaz Aliyarzadeh - Facilities Manager, Canadian Red Cross Society, Lower Mainland Region, 3400 Lake City Way, Burnaby, BC V5A 4Y2, 604-709-6610 (direct line), golnaz.aliyarzadeh@redcross.ca, www.redcross.ca



The Vancouver Cherry Blossom festival is pleased to announce a new spring deadline for the 2010 Haiku Invitational. The haiku is at the heart of our festival and each year, we invite poets from all over the globe to submit haiku poetry. **The deadline for the next round of haiku submissions will be May 31, 2010.** The poems will be judged during the summer and winners announced in the fall 2010. Winning poems will then be featured during the 2011 festival. So start planning now to submit your cherry blossom haiku this coming spring. Please visit the festival website at www.vcbf.ca to view past winning haiku.

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. **Bonsor Centre Health Alert presentations for February 2010:** Feb 15, "Foot clinic – make appointment", Feb 22, "Hearing aid clean and check with a hearing aid specialist – bring your hearing aids and questions". **Edmonds Centre Health Watch presentations for February 2010:** Feb 11, "Foot clinic – make appointment"; Feb 18, "Live long and laugh", Feb 25, "Hearing aid clean and check with a hearing aid specialist – bring your hearing aids and questions". For more information, contact Bonsor at 604-439-1456 or Edmonds at 604-524-4261.

The Edmonds Community Centre for 55+ located at 7282 Kingsway in Burnaby offers a wide variety of programs and special events. To register or for more information about the costs and times of the program or event, please call 604-525-1671.

Upcoming programs and events: Olympic Opening Ceremony Celebrations, Feb 12; REVS Bowling Centre (Maple Ridge), Feb 23. **Ongoing seniors' activities:** Burnaby South Stroke Club meets every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 10 AM to 1:30 PM – now equipped with BUNGALOW software to assist those with aphasia. **Bingo** every Saturday – call Tom at 604-430-2763. **Snooker**, membership required – call Tom at 604-430-2763. **Partners Bridge** every Thursday from 6 PM to 9 PM – call 604-525-1671. **Carpet Bowling**, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 PM to 3 PM – call 604-525-1671. **Edmond's Wii Group** meets every Monday from 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM – call 604-525-1671. **Edmond's Computer Club** meets Wednesdays from 10 AM to 12 noon or Thursdays from 7 PM – 9 PM – call 604-525-1671. **All Needlers** meet Fridays from 1 PM – 3 PM. **Friday Social Dance** from 1 PM to 3:30 PM and **Saturday Seniors Dance** from 2 PM to 4 PM – call 604-525-1671. **Weight Room Orientation** is also available – call 604-525-1671. **Volunteer Opportunities** are also available with the Computer Club, Kitchen, Coffee Bar, Cashier, Stroke Recovery, Friday and Saturday Dance Assistants, and Second Hand Rose Retail Assistants. Call 604-525-1671 to find out more.

