



This month -  
Food safety, food security and food  
sovereignty - a three pillar approach

**April 2010**

*Dear Friends*

New Democrats believe that the federal government should be striving for a three-pillar approach to our food supply in Canada - food safety (which means safe food); food security (which means having enough food) and food sovereignty (which means having control over food). Following the listeriosis crisis that killed 22 Canadians last year, and acknowledging the fact that unsafe products continue to come into our country, it is now more important than ever to do all we can to ensure our supply of food in Canada is safe and that the food we send to other countries is also safe.

Last August Prime Minister Harper appointed Sheila Weatherill, the former head of Edmonton's regional health authority, to conduct an investigation into the listeriosis outbreak at the Maple Leaf meat processing plant based in Toronto. New Democrats believed that Canadians would be much better served through a public and transparent process that a special committee could provide. So in February 2009, my New Democrat colleague and Critic for Agriculture, Alex Atamanenko, MP, proposed a motion to the House of Commons Agriculture Committee to create a sub-committee with the authority to investigate food safety in Canada as a response to the listeriosis tragedy.

The motion was passed by all Committee Members and the sub-committee tabled its report in June 2009. The sub-committee made several recommendations which can be found at: <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=4004114&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=2>. The Conservative government's response to these recommendations can be found at: <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=4096948&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=2>.

My New Democrat colleagues and I remain concerned about food safety in Canada. We recently learned that packaged meat destined for Canadians is inspected just once a week, while meat being shipped to the U.S. is checked every 12 hours. Now we learn that Siena Foods, a facility connected to the tainted deli meats, was stopped by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) from shipping to the U.S., yet were still allowed to produce food for Canadians.

After the 2008 listeriosis outbreak, the Conservative government's own special investigator, Sheila Weatherill, said Canada needs more inspectors and stated that the food safety system was in need of serious repair. In response, the government promised to increase the number of meat inspectors and invest \$75 million in the Canadian food safety system. However, since the 2008 listeriosis crisis, there has been no increase in the number of meat inspectors and the promised investment of \$75 million in the Canadian food safety system has not appeared (and was not mentioned in the recent federal budget). What is worse, the government has cut funding to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that protects Canadians. Yet in Ontario, there have been 14 confirmed cases of listeriosis,

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**Upcoming deadlines for submissions:**

May 2010 - April 15, 2010

June 2010 - May 15, 2010

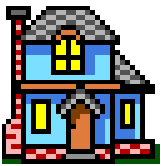
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and 5 deaths are now being investigated. It is clear that the government is not making food safety a priority for Canadians. My New Democrat colleague, Malcolm Allen, MP (Welland) continues to press on this issue in the House.

I urge you to make your voices heard on this urgent issue. Write to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Gerry Ritz, MP, and the Prime Minister and let them know that food safety, food security and food sovereignty is important to Canadians and we expect them to act on the recommendations of their own special investigator and on the recommendations of the sub-committee on food safety. Please send me a copy of your letter.

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](mailto:Siksay.B@parl.gc.ca). For more information about my work in Ottawa and Burnaby, please visit my website at [www.billsiksay.ca](http://www.billsiksay.ca).

Bill



## HOME IN BURNABY

The next deadline for the Burnaby-Douglas Link is **April 15, 2010** for distribution after **May 15, 2010**. Submissions can be faxed to my Community Office at 604-666-0727 or emailed to me at [Siksay.B@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Siksay.B@parl.gc.ca).



**Nominations are now open for the 2010 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards** - the Community Literacy Awards program celebrates the achievements of both adult learners and those who have helped them learn to read and write. The Awards encourage thousands of Canadians to improve their reading and writing skills, and inspires them to reach their personal literacy goals. There are 2 award categories, both representing a broad range of literacy accomplishments. **The Individual Achievement Awards** celebrates the achievements of adult learners who overcame social or economic barriers by improving their literacy or English as a Second Language/French as a Second Language (ESL/FSL) skills. Winners in this category receive a cash award of \$300 and a framed, personalized Certificate of Achievement. **The Educator Awards** honours English- and French-speaking educators, tutors, and advocates who have demonstrated a commitment to adult literacy or adult ESL/FSL training. Winners in this category receive a cash award of \$500 and a framed, personalized Certificate of Achievement. Celebrate literacy in your community – make a nomination to the Canada Post Community Literacy Awards before May 21, 2010. For more information or to obtain a nomination form, visit [www.canadapost.ca/literacyawards](http://www.canadapost.ca/literacyawards).

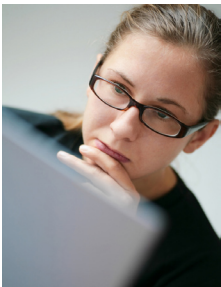
**Earth Fest – Wildlife Rescue Association's 2nd Annual Nature Festival**, April 25, 11 am – 3 pm, Burnaby Lake Pavilion. WRA is hosting this free family event in Earth Week as a unique, fun opportunity for the community to learn more about our natural environment. Many local organizations will be there to provide a spectrum of environmental information and there will be several exciting wildlife-themed games and crafts, nature tours, raffle draws and a variety of prizes for lucky guests to win. People can take in a live performance from drumming group Mukutano or do some bird watching through a spotting scope display on Burnaby Lake. Children will even get a chance to build and take home a chickadee or mason bee nest box! People of all ages can learn about nature while having a WILD time! For more information, visit [www.wildliferescue.ca](http://www.wildliferescue.ca) or speak to Krystal at 604-526-2747.





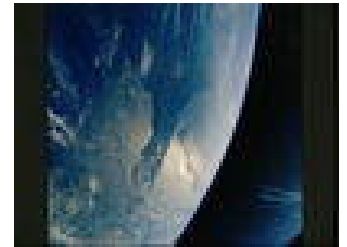
At the end of December 2008, approximately 1,023,000 unclaimed balances, worth some \$351 million, were on the Bank of Canada's books. Over 93.5% of these were under \$1,000, representing 31.7% of the total value outstanding. The oldest balance dates back to 1900. Could you have an unclaimed bank balance you forgot about? To find out, visit <http://www.bank-banque-canada.ca/en/ucb/index.html>.

The City of Burnaby and its Environment Committee is seeking nominations for their 2010 Environment Awards which recognize the significant environmental achievements of individuals, businesses and community groups in Burnaby. The categories are Communications; Planning and Development; Community Stewardship; Youth; Green Choices; and Business Stewardship. Nominations will be accepted until April 9, 2010 and awards will be announced by Council on May 17, 2010. For more information, contact the City of Burnaby Planning Department at 604-294-7400 or email [planning@burnaby.ca](mailto:planning@burnaby.ca).



**Burnaby Writers' Society Writing Contest 2010** – Open to all residents of BC, this year's contest theme is "One Page on the Theme of Water". The theme can be interpreted in any way you like – water in oceans, rivers, waterfalls and ponds; water in story, fairytale and myth; floods and rainstorms; or any other association that may occur to you. Work can be in any form or genre as long as it will fit on one side of a standard 8 ½ by 11 inch sheet of paper with standard margins. Cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 Canadian will be awarded to the top three entries. For more information, visit [www.bws.bc.ca](http://www.bws.bc.ca).

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is hosting the World Congress of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre from June 20-25, 2010. The theme of the conference is "Now the People – From the Crisis to Global Justice". The conference will host approximately 1200 delegates from around the world plus several hundred observers. The CLC will require significant volunteer assistance with the World Congress to help welcome delegates at the airport, to prepare Convention kits, to provide Convention administration during the week, and marshals for Convention demonstrations. If you are interested in helping out, please contact David Rice, ITUC Coordinator, at [drice@clc-ctc.ca](mailto:drice@clc-ctc.ca) or call 604-230-3708.



**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.boysandgirlsclubsbcc.ca](http://www.boysandgirlsclubsbcc.ca).

**CampOUT!** is UBC's summer camp for sexual minority and gender variant youth from across BC. Its goal is to give participants access to social, health and education resources that they might not otherwise have access to, and help them to develop leadership skills that they can take back to their communities. CampOUT is lead by an advisory council of youth. For more information, please visit [www.supporting.ubc.ca/campout](http://www.supporting.ubc.ca/campout).



**Burnaby Family Caregivers is hosting the 2nd annual “Burnaby Family Caregivers Information Fair” with 25 exhibit tables and speakers about services for unpaid family caregivers.** Drop-in Saturday, April 10, 10 AM-2 PM at Bonsor Community Centre, 6550 Bonsor. Register for the short workshop “Resources in Burnaby for Family Caregivers” presentations for unpaid family & friend caregivers on Thursday, April 5, 7-8:30 PM, McGill Library, 4595 Albert or Saturday, April 17, 10:30 AM - Noon, Holdom & Lougheed. Registration is required: 604 291 2258 to reserve your free seat.



**A six week “Family Caregiver Education Program” for those providing care to an older family member is also offered.** 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. Saturdays, 10 AM - Noon, April 24 – May 29. Registration for the free full six week program is required. Contact 604 291 2258 for more information or to register.



**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” presentations to employees who are also family caregivers.** These programs are a project of Burnaby Seniors Outreach Services Society. The services are free and facilitated by gerontologist Katherine Willett.

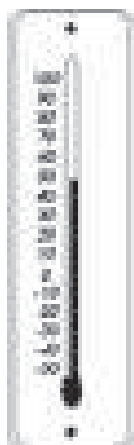
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## Upcoming for Seniors



**Confederation Centre 55+**, 4585 Albert Street, Burnaby, is a senior’s community centre located in North Burnaby. Programs are geared to the 55+ age group. For more information on programs or promotions listed below, please contact 604-294-1936. **Upcoming events: Thursday and Friday Evening Dances**, Spring schedule – April 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7 and 21 - Thursdays from 7 PM to 9 PM and Fridays from 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM; **Multicultural Evening**, April 7, 5 PM to 8 PM.

**Burnaby Seniors Outreach Services - an exceptional volunteer opportunity for seniors.** Great possibility for self-fulfillment and community service awaits you if: you care about others; you wish to put your retirement time to good use; you want to develop your personal and communication skills. Then consider enrolling in our peer counselling course beginning April 19 and held twice a week for nine weeks. For more information, please call 604-291-2258.



**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 April 2010:** April 15, “Foot clinic – make appointment”, April 22, “The healthy brain”, April 29, “Joint and muscle health:.” **Bonsor Centre Health Watch presentations for April 2010:** April 12, “Live long and laugh”; April 19, “Dementia: signs, diagnosis and latest treatment”, April 26, “Foot clinic – make appointment”. For more information, contact Bonsor at 604-439-1456 or Edmonds at 604-524-4261.