



## This month -

- Fighting for a budget that reflects the needs of all Canadians
- Calling for the reinstatement of full funding to KAIROS

**March 2010**

### *Dear Friends*

Canada's next federal budget could change the future for Canadian individuals and families. This budget will set this nation's path into the next decade—in the face of a deep deficit brought about by Conservative policies. And Prime Minister Harper has already signaled that this will be an austerity budget.

Will the Conservative budget take us back to the old tired policies that have always caused problems for ordinary Canadians? Cutting the services ordinary folks rely on? Laying off public sector workers and cutting public service pensions? Ignoring the infrastructure we need for a lasting recovery? Abandoning the half-million Canadians recently thrown out of work? We don't know, because Prime Minister Harper has padlocked Parliament until budget day. Without having to face questions from elected MPs, there has been little accountability during the lead up to the March federal budget.

New Democrats have been calling on the Prime Minister to recall Parliament immediately. New Democrat leader, Jack Layton, will also be proposing legislation that would prevent any prime minister from suspending your elected Parliament—ever again—without a majority vote in the House of Commons.

New Democrats will be fighting for a budget that reflects the needs of all Canadians. Scrapping the proposed billion dollar corporate tax cuts is a place to begin – Canada's most profitable corporations don't need help. Canadian seniors, whose pension incomes have been negatively affected as a result of an error in calculating the rate of inflation, do need help and should be fully reimbursed for this error. Canadian veterans need help and implementing the five recommendations of the Veterans' First motion as approved by Parliament would be another positive step forward.

Families with children also need help and finally moving toward a universal, cost-effective, regulated, not-for-profit child care program and phasing in a universal, high quality, accessible and not-for-profit early child hood development program would be another important step forward. Workers and people who are facing unemployment need help and improving the Employment Insurance system by reducing the required number of hours to qualify to 360, eliminating the two week waiting period and basing the insurable payments for individuals on the twelve (12) best weeks worked would go a long way towards assisting these Canadians. New immigrants need help which could be accomplished by establishing long term permanent bridging, mentorship and settlement programs that assist them in finding good and meaningful employment.

continued on page 2.

### **Upcoming deadlines for submissions:**

April 2010 - March 15, 2010

May 2010 - April 15, 2010

continued from page 1.

New Democrats will be raising these suggestions along with many others that reflect the real needs of Canadians in this next federal budget.

Finally, it was with profound shock and disappointment that Canadians learned of the Harper government's decision to cut funding to KAIROS - a highly regarded international development organization that does very important work on wide range of development, social justice and human rights issues in countries around the world. KAIROS has been funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for over 35 years. I am deeply concerned about the devastating impact this will have on KAIROS' partner agencies, the many marginalized people their work supports, and the advancement of their educational work and human rights. I am astounded that this government would withdraw its support from such a worthy organization. I have written to the Minister of International Cooperation to urge her to reinstate full funding to KAIROS as soon as possible. I would urge you to sign the enclosed petition and pass it on to your friends and family urging the Conservative government to reverse this decision.

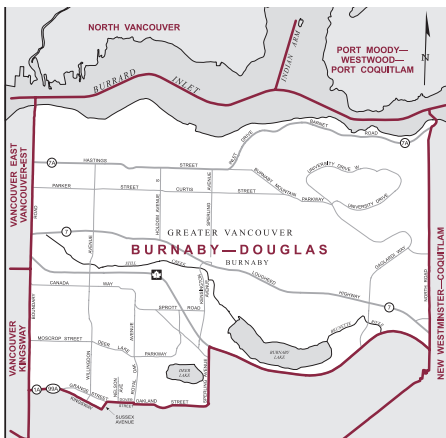
As always, I look forward to hearing your views on this and other issues of the day or assisting you on any matter within federal jurisdiction. Please do not hesitate to contact me at my Community Office at 4506 Dawson Street, telephone 604-291-8863, email Siksay.B@parl.gc.ca. For more information about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

Bill



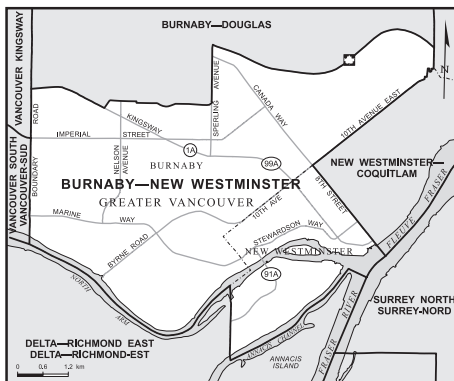
## HOME IN BURNABY

The next deadline for the Burnaby-Douglas Link is **March 15, 2010** for distribution after **April 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).



**CHARTING CHANGE: AN INTERACTIVE ATLAS OF BURNABY'S HERITAGE** - The legacy of Burnaby's history can be seen in every corner of our city. On February 15, 2010, the City Archives launched a new website which dynamically charts the natural and cultural heritage of our community through the use of four interactive maps.

Titled **Charting Change: An Interactive Atlas of Burnaby's Heritage**, this website will allow users to see how historical events, ranging from First Nations settlement to the founding of Fort Langley in 1825, through to the Depression and post-war housing boom have shaped the community of Burnaby. Tools and resources from all of Burnaby's Heritage partners – the City Archives, the Burnaby Village Museum, the Burnaby Planning Department and the Burnaby Historical Society – are linked to historic photographs, artifacts, and neighbourhood histories to create a powerful on-line resource that links history and geography to reveal community. The atlas also makes use of innovative Google Street View capabilities, allowing users to zoom into many of our heritage sites and historic buildings to view them in their present context – a truly unique feature that offers our citizens a rare glimpse of how the landscape of our city has evolved.



To visit the website, please go to [www.heritageburnaby.ca](http://www.heritageburnaby.ca) and click on the Charting Change link. For more information, contact Arilea Sill; City Archivist at 604-297-4818.



**Mother's Day Ceilidh & Tea** – Join Robbie Stuart, Tam O'Shanter Dancers and Highland Dancers at this event in support of the RCMP "E" Division Pipes and Drums on May 9, 2010 at the Star of the Sea Hall, 15262 Pacific Avenue, White Rock. The event runs from 1 PM to 4 PM. For tickets and information, call Rick Lavin 604-569-2986 or Kate MacAree at 604-951-7589 or visit [www.rcmppipeband.com](http://www.rcmppipeband.com).

---

**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.

---

**Buying a home? Can you tell if it was a grow-op?** The Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors of BC (CAHPI(BC)) have produced a fact sheet that can provide some words of advice to home buyers. With an increasing percentage of real estate available for sale in BC which have previously been used as marijuana grow-op sites, CAHPI(BC) wants the public to be aware of potential warning signs. The fact sheet will be available on the CAHPI(BC) website shortly. For more information, or to get a copy of the fact sheet, contact CAHPI(BC) at 1-800-610-5665 or visit [www.cahpi.bc.ca](http://www.cahpi.bc.ca).



**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 Westminster 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 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](mailto:iris.sun@peersonline.ca) or call 778-319-2268.



**Community members are invited to join the Chevron/North Burnaby Community Advisory Panel – CAP.** For the past 14 years, the Chevron/North Burnaby CAP has served to identify and resolve issues of mutual importance and concern. Meetings are held quarterly on a weeknight from 7-9 PM at Confederation Senior’s Centre, 4585 Albert Street in Burnaby. The meetings are facilitated by an independent public consultation consultant. CAP encourages participation from as broad a cross-section of the local community as possible.

If you are interested in learning more about the committee or potentially participating as a member of CAP, please contact Ray Lord, Public and Government Affairs Manager, Chevron Burnaby Refinery, 604-257-4095, Ray.Lord@Chevron.com or Kim Barbero, CAP Facilitator, Carah Worldwide Consulting, 778-989-7045, kbarbero@carahworldwide.com.

## 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 March 2010:** March 11, “Dementia: signs, diagnosis and latest treatment”, March 18, “Foot clinic – make appointment”, March 25, “A new approach to nutrition for diabetes”. **Bonsor Centre Health Watch presentations for March 2010:** March 15, “Homeopathy helps for sciatica, glaucoma etc”; March 22, “Foot clinic – make appointment”, March 29, “Alzheimer’s Disease”. 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. **Edmonds Community Centre is looking for musical talent!** Are you musically inclined? Do you like performing for an audience? The Centre is looking for individuals or small groups who would like to volunteer a few hours a week to play piano or sing during the lunch hour. Starting March 2010 on Fridays from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Performers will receive lunch and a record or volunteer hours. For more information, contact Lucas Bjerke at 604-297-4403 or Lucas.Bjerke@burnaby.ca.



**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: Seniors Book Club Opportunity** – if you love to read, enjoy discussing books with others, then Confederation’s Book Club may be for you. 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 AM at McGill Library. Call Barbara at 604-415-0410 for more information. **BINGO Opportunity at Confed Centre** every Thursday from 1 PM to 4 PM and every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1 PM to 3 PM.

