



# Lois Brown's Ottawa Update

41st Parliament, Volume 5

December 24, 2011

905.953.7515



**Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year!**  
**Please see my Christmas message at [www.loisbrown.ca](http://www.loisbrown.ca)**

It is my most sincere wish that this festive season brings peace and joy to you and your family.

The holiday season is a time for reflection on everything we have to be thankful for, of the fact that we live in such a wonderful country like Canada, and of the values that unite us.

Regardless of our religion or beliefs, most everyone can relate to the spirit of giving and togetherness that the holidays bring.

And while we give thanks for all we have enjoyed in 2011, let's not forget to think of others less fortunate than ourselves, and to spare a thought for the brave men and women in uniform who are defending Canadian values all around the world, spending this Christmas away from their loved ones.

On behalf of our Conservative Government, and from my family to yours, Merry Christmas - and all the best in the coming New Year.

## Health Care Funding to Grow Under Sustainable Conservative Plan

Our Government is committed to a publicly funded, universally accessible health care system that is there when you need it. Earlier this week Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced a major new investment in health care that will see funding for health care continue to increase to record levels. The new investment will see funding grow to record levels from \$30 billion per year in 2013-14 to \$38 billion per year in 2018-19, for a total investment of \$178 billion in health care over the five-year period.

The Government also recognizes the importance major transfers play within the federation, and is committed to growing these transfers on a balanced and sustainable path going forward. We will not reduce transfers to provinces and territories to help balance the budget, and we are committed to protecting transfer growth in 2014-15 and beyond while being fiscally responsible. The Canadian Health Transfer will continue to grow at six per cent for an additional three years beyond 2013-14 (i.e., 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17).

In 2012-13, Ontario will receive record high support through major federal transfers totalling \$19.2 billion - an increase of nearly \$8.4 billion (or 77%) from under the former Liberal government, including:

- over \$3.2 billion through Equalization
- nearly \$11.4 billion through the Canada Health Transfer, an increase of over \$3.6 billion (or 48%) from under the former liberal government
- \$4.6 billion through the Canada Social Transfer, an increase of over \$1.4 billion (or 45%) from under the former liberal government.

Starting in 2017-18, the CHT will grow in line with a three-year moving average of nominal gross domestic product (GDP) growth, with funding guaranteed to increase by at least three per cent per year. Based on long-term trends, it would be expected to grow in the range of four per cent annually.

These measures will ensure that the integrity of the transfer system is maintained, by ensuring that it remains sustainable for all governments.

## **Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown applauds new initiative to help protect Canadian children travelling abroad**

Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown welcomed the December 12 announcement by the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of an interactive consent letter for children travelling abroad.

This safe-travel resource is intended to make it easier for children to travel while preventing their abduction to foreign countries. Parents will now be able to compose a clear and concise letter simply by filling out a form. The online tool was developed in response to the needs of parents, legal professionals and consular officials

“Requiring a parent to carry a notarized consent letter signed by a non-travelling custodial parent as proof of permission to allow their children to travel will go a long way to preventing child abductions,” said MP Brown.

The interactive consent letter for children travelling abroad, along with information on other aspects of foreign travel, can be found at [www.travel.gc.ca](http://www.travel.gc.ca).

## **MP Brown’s Statement in the House of Commons on Stephen Watkin’s Abducted Children**

### **Member's Statements December 12, 2011**

*Mr. Speaker, today I bring awareness to an issue that hits close to home. For the past two and a half years, my constituent, Steven Watkins has courageously been working to locate and bring back his two children who were abducted to Poland.*

*I want this House to know that Mr. Watkins is not alone in this fight. Since learning of the situation, Canadian consular officials have been actively engaging with local authorities in Poland, the provincial authorities and the York Regional Police on this case.*

*Today, the Minister of State announced the launch of an interactive consent letter for parents with children travelling abroad. This valuable resource is intended to make it easier for children to travel while preventing their abduction to foreign countries. The Minister of State has noted:*

*Child abductions are among the most difficult, complex and distressing circumstances faced by Canadian parents and consular officials.*

*Our government stands with Canadian families at home and abroad. We take cases involving children extremely seriously. We will continue to work with our partners towards a positive resolution in the case of my constituent, Mr. Watkins.*

## **Lois Brown Welcomes Royal Assent of Bill C-13.**

Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown welcomed the Royal Assent on December 16 of Bill C-13, the *Keeping Canada's Economy & Jobs Growing Act*. The legislation includes key elements of the Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan—A Low-Tax Plan for Jobs and Growth.

The *Keeping Canada's Economy & Jobs Growing Act* will do the following:

### **Job Creation & Economic Growth**

- Provide a temporary Hiring Credit for Small Business to encourage additional hiring,
- Expand tax support for clean energy generation to encourage green investments,
- Simplify customs tariffs in order to facilitate trade and lower the administrative burden for businesses,
- Extend the accelerated capital cost allowance treatment for investments in manufacturing and processing machinery and equipment for two years to support the manufacturing and processing sector,
- Eliminate the mandatory retirement age for federally regulated employees in order to give older workers wishing to work the option of remaining in the workforce.

### **Supporting Communities**

- Legislate permanent annual funding of \$2 billion for the Gas Tax Fund for predictable, long-term infrastructure support to municipalities,
- Enhance the Wage Earner Protection Program to cover more workers affected by employer bankruptcy or receivership,
- Introduce a Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit for volunteer firefighters,
- Increase the integrity of the charitable sector to provide more confidence by introducing a package of integrity measures designed to help combat fraud and other forms of abuse.

### **Helping Families**

- Introduce a new Family Caregiver Tax Credit to assist caregivers of all types of infirm dependent relatives,

- Remove the limit on the amount of eligible expenses caregivers can claim under the Medical Expense Tax Credit in respect of financially dependent relatives,
- Introduce a new Children's Arts Tax Credit for programs associated with children's artistic, cultural, recreational and developmental activities.

### **Investing in Education and Training**

- Forgive loans for new doctors and nurses in under-served rural and remote areas,
- Help apprentices in the skilled trades and workers in regulated professions by making occupational, trade and professional examination fees eligible for the Tuition Tax Credit,
- Improve federal financial assistance for students,
- Make it easier to allocate Registered Education Savings Plan assets among siblings, without incurring tax penalties or forfeiting Canada Education Savings Grants.

### **Respecting Taxpayers**

- Phase out the direct subsidy of political parties,
- Close numerous tax loopholes that allow a few businesses and individuals to avoid paying their fair share of tax.

## **MP Lois Brown Welcomes IMF Report on Canada's Economy**

Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown welcomed the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) annual year-end review of Canada's economic developments and policies, which strongly endorses the Government's commitment to return to balanced budgets over the medium term.

In its 2011 Article IV Consultation with Canada report, the IMF notes Canada's strong economic recovery, reflecting "a decisive policy response, a resilient financial sector, and high commodity prices."

The report also notes that the key risk to the Canadian outlook stems from uncertainty over the external economic environment, citing the potential for "further turbulence from Europe and its impact on global financial markets."

The IMF supports the measures taken by the Government to promote the long-term stability of Canada's housing market, including changes to the rules for government-backed insured mortgages.

The report also confirms that Canada's financial sector is solid, thanks to effective supervision and regulation. The report notes that Canada is advancing well on international financial market reforms, stating that Canadian banks are well-placed to meet the Basel III capital requirements "early in the transition period."

The IMF reviews the economic developments and policies of each member country, usually on an annual basis. The IMF's report is released at the discretion of the country being reviewed. The Government supports this release in recognition of the importance of the IMF's surveillance activities, and as an expression of Canada's commitment to ensuring that these activities are transparent.

## Lois Stands Up in the House of Commons for Newmarket

Member's Statements December 16, 2012



*Mr. Speaker our Government continues to stay focused on what is important to my constituents in Newmarket-Aurora and to all Canadians – jobs and economic growth.*

*Our government's actions, through Canada's Economic Action Plan and other measures, have led to the creation of nearly 600,000 net new jobs since July 2009.*

*This Saturday in Newmarket I will be celebrating the completion of a major Economic Action Plan investment in our Town, the Newmarket Riverwalk Commons.*

*I am proud to be part of a Government that committed more than \$2 million to help revitalize Newmarket's downtown urban space while creating local jobs in our community.*

*Thanks to this Economic Action Plan investment Newmarket will enjoy accessible, modern, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, having a tremendous positive impact on the health of our community, for years to come.*

*I congratulate everyone involved in the planning and development of this long-anticipated community asset and look forward to a wonderful opening this Saturday.*

## Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

In 2012, Canada will mark the 60th anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Queen of Canada. The Queen has dedicated her entire life to the service of others and has always held this country and all Canadians in the deepest of pride and affection. The only other time Canada celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of a reigning sovereign was for Queen Victoria in 1897. By supporting this most historic and significant anniversary, our Government is delivering on its commitment to reinforce our heritage through active celebration of our institutions that define who we are as Canadians. In celebrating Her Majesty The Queen and the institution of the Canadian Crown (The Queen, the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors) in this Diamond Jubilee Year, we also celebrate her ideals and dedication to service as an example to us all. For further information on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and community celebrations visit <http://www.pch.gc.ca/eng/1323011380156/>.

