

VOICE
for
**VEGREVILLE-
WAINWRIGHT**

*News from the House of Commons
Views from Your House*



Leon Benoit, MP

Vegreville-Wainwright

SPRING 2011

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Dear Constituents:

First, I would like to express my thanks to all those who participated in any of pre-budget consultations I held throughout Vegreville-Wainwright. Whether it was responding to my electronic survey, attending one of the many meetings or submitting your comments by phone, mail, fax or email, I appreciate your feedback and I have shared the messages with the Finance Minister.



The year is now well underway and we are once again facing an Opposition Coalition threatening an election over a budget they haven't even read. As the Prime Minister has indicated our Government has no plans for an election—our focus is on Canada's economy and keeping it strong.

This past February marked five years of Conservative accomplishments. Since our first day in office we have been making good decisions for the right reasons to benefit all Canadians and their families.

RESTORING TRUST

First on our agenda was the *Federal Accountability Act*. Our Government knew we had to restore Canadians' trust in our elected officials after the Sponsorship Scandal. Our new legislation cleaned up government and weeded out corruption rampant in the previous Liberal government.

CUTTING TAXES – HELPING FAMILIES

Next, we cut taxes. We started by cutting the GST from 7 to 6, and finally, 5 per cent. This is helping Canadians save on every purchase they make. We also cut personal income taxes, saving Canadians more of their hard-earned money. When our Government took office, Canada had one of the highest rates of taxation among developed countries. After cutting taxes over 100 times, we will have the lowest. I've included more information on some of the many ways we have cut taxes throughout this newsletter.

SAFE COMMUNITIES

A priority for the Harper Government has always been the safety and security of families and communities. After decades of Liberal soft-on-crime policies, Canadians were deeply concerned about crime — especially gun, gang and drug violence. Our Government responded with a tough-on-crime agenda to make our streets and communities safer. There is still much more legislation before Parliament that is

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yet to be passed. We sincerely hope the opposition will take a stand for the safety of Canadians, and help enact these important reforms. On page 9 of this booklet you will find an update on our most recent Justice initiatives—as well as what the Opposition are doing to help criminals.

When we took office, Canada's Armed Forces had just gone through what they called "a Decade of Darkness." Equipment was dated and their spirits were down. That's why, since taking office, our Government has almost completely re-equipped our hard-working men and women in uniform. Our military personnel are some of our country's most committed citizens — to the point of putting their lives on the line — which is why we are ensuring they have the best tools and equipment to do their jobs, and do them safely.

LEADING THE WAY

When the global economic recession threatened the economies of countless countries around the world, the Harper Government delivered strong, stable economic leadership. Canada's Economic Action Plan helped create new jobs, saved many already existing ones, and helped struggling industries find their footing. The result is 460,000 net new jobs since July 2009 [as of Jan 2011], a sound financial sector, the lowest deficit and debt among the G8, and a strong economy to attract new investors. While this is great news for Canada, the global recovery is still fragile. That's why our Government is committed to staying the course, remaining focussed on job creation and economic growth to ensure Canada continues to pull through this recession in a strong position.

For five years, our Government has worked to make Canada more united, stronger, more prosperous, and safer. This is no time to change course. We will not raise taxes that hurt Canadians' pocketbooks. We will not spend more money than we can afford. But we *will* continue to deliver the action that is making a difference for Canadians and their families.



RIGHT: Leon speaks with Vladimir Gregoriev (left), Minister of Nature Protection, and Vladimir Vasiliev (centre), President, Northern Forum Academy, both of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russia, in Elk Island National Park. (See story page 15.) (PARKS CANADA PHOTO)





WORLD'S LONGEST HOCKEY GAME

Leon was honoured to be part of the on-ice dignitary Honour Guard for the ceremonial puck drop at the 2011 charity marathon hockey game. The February 11th event marked the start of another incredible ten-day community fundraiser which raised \$772,781.40 for the Cross Cancer Institute while also being named as the World's Longest Hockey Game (WLHG) by the Guinness Book of World Records.

This is the fourth WLHG organized by Dr. Brent Saik who was joined by 39 volunteer players. The group played continuously on the outdoor arena for 10 days. Leon extends his congratulations to Dr. Saik, all the players and the hundreds of community volunteers whose efforts helped help generate donations to purchase a Linear Accelerator (Linac) for the Cross Cancer Institute's treatment of paediatric patients.

"The time and effort that all participants have contributed to this charity event over the years is amazing, and the community is all the better for it," says Leon. "Everyone has a personal connection to the battle against cancer, and it is inspiring to see how effective an effort like this can be. Fantastic job!"

More information on the game, and how to become involved, can be found at www.worldslongestgame.com/.

A tireless fundraiser, Dr. Saik also organizes an annual golf tournament in the memory of his father who lost a battle with cancer in 1994. The Annual Terry Saik Memorial Golf Tournament has raised \$35,000 to date.

(ABOVE PHOTO COURTESY WORLD'S LONGEST HOCKEY GAME)

CENSUS REMINDER!

Starting May 2nd, all households in Canada will receive a yellow census package. The census questionnaire can be completed online or on paper. There is information on the census (including about how to make sure your computer is 'census ready') at http://www.census2011.gc.ca/ccr_r000-eng.htm.

OPENING TRADE DOORS FOR FARMERS

Leon and his colleagues know that farmers want to make their money from the marketplace — not the mailbox. That's why our Government is building on our strong record and will *continue* to fight for market access around the world. In fact, we have created a Market Access Secretariat to work with industry to sell our high quality Canadian products. Some of the many accomplishments to date, include:

- Opening up markets for exports with missions to Washington, Mexico, Cuba, Russia, Japan, Hong Kong, China, India, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the UAE and Morocco;
- active participation in the WTO negotiations to eliminate export subsidies, reduce trade-distorting domestic support, increase market access and standing up for supply-management;
- Free Trade Agreement negotiations with numerous countries in two years:
 - passing the European Free Trade Zone, Peru and Colombia FTAs
 - moving Jordan FTA through the House;
 - currently negotiating FTAs with EU, South Korea, and Morocco
 - reopening and expanding access for cattle, beef, beef products and/or bovine genetics in China, Hong Kong, Colombia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Panama and Singapore;
 - reopening pork export markets including China following H1N1;
 - doubling our canola oil exports to China by \$180 million; and
 - signing agreements with China delivering hundreds of millions of dollars worth of canola, barley and pulse crops.

In comparison, the NDP and the Bloc Québécois voted *against* implementing a Free Trade Agreement with both Panama and Colombia. As well, the Opposition Coalition voted to pass Bill C-474 — a Bill that tried to introduce non-scientific considerations into the regulatory approval process for new genetically modified seeds. New and innovative seed traits are key to expanding markets. If this bill had passed, Canadian farmers would have fallen behind their competitors on the latest technology.

LOWER TAXES FOR ALL CANADIANS

Canadians have many reasons to save for the future, like a home renovation, retirement or even medical expenses. The Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) can help all Canadians work towards their short- and long-term financial goals. The TFSA is a flexible, registered savings account that allows Canadians to save for their future. **Investment income, including capital gains, earned within the account is not taxed and withdrawals are tax-free.** No matter what your income level, the TFSA can help you save money. Canadians who are 18 and older can contribute no more than \$5,000 every year, with unused room carried forward. Whether you're starting your career, or thinking about retirement, the TFSA is a great way to save money and keep hard-earned dollars in your pocket. *Contact your local financial institution or visit www.tfsa.gc.ca to learn more about the rules around this important savings vehicle.*

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Leon wants to thank all those who participated in his pre-budget consultation meetings he held throughout the constituency in January. He heard numerous suggestions and comments about how the Government should proceed with not only Budget 2011 but into the future.

Additionally, there were a number of individuals who took the time to fill out the electronic survey Leon posted on his website, as well as all those who wrote or called with their views.

Leon has submitted all constituent comments to the relevant Ministers and—at the time of writing—is looking forward to the tabling of the federal budget, which will be tabled March 22, 2011.

(ABOVE: Leon meets with constituents in Sedgewick. PHOTO BY NAOMI CHRISTENSEN)

PRIME MINISTER'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Leon was pleased to announce a volunteer awards program to recognize the outstanding contributions of Canadians who volunteer their time, energy and talents to helping others. The program will also acknowledge local business leaders, and individuals from non-profit organizations who make a difference within their communities.

The program will see a total of 17 Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards presented annually. Fifteen of these will be regional awards, presented to volunteers, business leaders and individuals from not-for-profit organizations. In addition there will also be two national awards, one to recognize lifelong achievement and one for a young adult. Regional award recipients will receive a \$5,000 grant for the not-for-profit organization of their choice, while national award recipients will receive \$10,000 for their organization of choice.

The first call for nominations will be in April 2011 during National Volunteer Week with the recipients being announced later in the year. For more info, visit www.pm.gc.ca/awards.

LOWERING TAXES FOR FAMILIES

UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE BENEFIT

Being a parent is about making choices. Our Conservative Government believes that, when it comes to children, parents know best. That's why we created the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB). The UCCB provides families with \$100 per month for each child under the age of 6. That's \$1,200 per child, per year.

CHILDREN'S FITNESS TAX CREDIT

We want to help families with children meet their goals. At the same time, we are working to help parents teach their kids leadership, sportsmanship and healthy lifestyles. Through the Children's Fitness Tax Credit, our Government is helping more parents enrol their kids in sports and fitness programs.

CAREGIVER AMOUNT

Caring for a loved one who is dependent on you can be challenging both emotionally and financially. That's why we are providing Canadians with the Caregiver Amount. If at any time in 2010 you (either alone or with another person) maintained a residence where you and the person you care for lived (a spouse or common-law partner is not considered your dependant for this purpose), you may be able to claim a maximum amount of \$4,223.

THE CHILD DISABILITY BENEFIT & THE REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PROGRAM

Since taking office in 2006, our Conservative Government not only increased the Child Disability Benefit for low and moderate-income families, but worked to ensure more families could be eligible for it. We also created the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). Like the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), this Plan provides Canadian families with a new option to save for their children's future.

CANADA CHILD TAX BENEFIT & NATIONAL CHILD BENEFIT SUPPLEMENT

Low and middle-income families are getting a boost from our Government's increases to the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBs) and the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB). These increases are resulting in more savings for those families who, in the past, would have *just* missed the eligibility mark. For example, a low-income family with two children can bring in up to \$436 in additional savings. A middle-income family with two children—\$76. Even if you feel your net income is too high, you should still apply.

DEDUCT CHILD CARE EXPENSES

Caring for a child is never easy, *especially* while juggling other commitments like work or school. That's why we are providing parents with the ability to deduct child care expenses from your income. These are amounts either you or another person paid to have someone look after an eligible child so that you or the other person could: earn income from employment; operate a business either alone or as an active partner; attend school; or conduct research. Check for eligibility criteria by calling 1.800.959.8281 or by visiting www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA



LEFT: *The Hon Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health (L), announces regulations to strengthen Canada's labelling of food allergens and gluten*

ALLERGEN LABELLING

Often, avoiding an allergenic food ingredient is the only way for people with food allergies to protect themselves. That's why ingredient labels are one of the most useful tools for allergic Canadians.

On February 16, 2011, the first phase of new regulations were put into place by Health Canada to enhance allergen labelling of food allergens, gluten sources and added sulphites. This means that Canadians with food allergies, sensitivities and celiac disease will be able to make informed choices about the foods they buy.

The regulations will be amended in a phased approach (manufacturers have up to 18 months), and will require that manufacturers declare food allergens (now including mustard), gluten sources and sulphites by name either in the list of ingredients or at the end of the list of ingredients with the following statement "Contains . . ."

One of the important parts of these regulations is that if these items are sub-ingredients of food they must be declared on the product label. For example, if a frozen meat loaf uses barley in a seasoning ingredient, barley will be required to be declared in the list of ingredients. The mention of barley can appear in brackets after the seasoning declaration in the list of ingredients or in the "Contains" statement.

The new regulations will benefit Canadians by providing a clearer ingredient label so that consumers can be sure to avoid foods that contain the ingredient to which they are allergic.

As well, the strengthened regulations will provide manufacturers with clear labelling rules for allergens to be followed in a systematic and consistent manner. These clear rules are aimed at reducing the number of food recalls and allergic reactions.

CONTACTING LEON?

Leon receives hundreds of letter, emails and faxes every week. His priority is always to address the concerns of his constituents. In order to ensure his resources are used to assist the residents of Vegreville-Wainwright, please include a mailing address with any correspondence.

JUSTICE UPDATE

I want to thank everyone who filled out and returned the crime survey I included in a recent newsletter. I very much appreciated your feedback. Many people said they are very concerned about their own safety and about protecting their property.

As a result, I believe my constituents will be very happy to see Prime Minister Stephen Harper's introduction of *The Citizen's Arrest and Self-Defence Act*. This Bill will expand the circumstances in which citizens' arrests* can be made, and streamline and simplify the self-defence and defence of property provisions in the *Criminal Code*.

As the Prime Minister stated, Canadians who have been the victim of a crime should not be re-victimized by the criminal justice system. That's why we have introduced changes to the *Criminal Code* so Canadians know they have the law on their side and that our justice system targets criminals and not victims.

Currently, the ability to make a citizen's arrest is very restricted and is only permitted if an individual is caught actively engaged in a criminal offence on or in relation to one's property. Bill C-60 would authorize an owner, a person in lawful possession of property, or a person authorized by them, to arrest a person within a reasonable amount of time after they find that person committing a criminal offence either:

- on their property (e.g. the offence occurs in their yard); or
- in relation to their property (e.g. their property is stolen from a public parking lot).

I find it very telling that, while our Conservative Government is working to strengthen the justice system to help protect **Canadians**, the Opposition Coalition is worrying about the well-being of **criminals**.

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR CRIMINALS?

On February 16th, the Ignatieff-led Coalition voted in favour of a Bloc Quebecois Private Members' Bill (C-343) which would allow EI to be paid if a youth is injured as a result of committing a crime. For example, if a 16-year old falls down the stairs while robbing a house, this bill would provide thousands of dollars through EI so they could be cared for, for up to a year! This is simply offensive to victims and their families, as well as to hard-working, law-abiding Canadian

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RIGHT: *Prime Minister Stephen Harper acknowledged the specific concerns of rural Canadians with the tabling of Bill C-60, the Citizen's Self-Defence Act.*
(PHOTO BY DEB RANSOM)



JUSTICE UPDATE, CONT'D FROM PAGE 9

taxpayers. Neither I nor this Government will **ever** support a bill that rewards criminals as this one does.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF OFFENDERS

The Opposition Coalition wasted no time when the House of Commons resumed in February, almost immediately gutting important legislation that would amend the *International Transfer of Offenders Act*. Bill C-5 would ensure that the *Minister of Public Safety can consider the **safety of communities first** when Canadian citizens convicted of crimes abroad apply to serve their time in Canada.* To me, the worst part is that the soft-on-crime coalition **deliberately deleted every single reference to victims in this bill, save one.** Why can't they show the same concern for law-abiding Canadians

MEAL EXPENSES OF LONG-HAUL TRUCK DRIVERS

Leon brought this issue to the attention of the Minister of Revenue previously, so was very glad to see positive results for truck drivers. For those who travel Canada's roads for a living, extra expenses will occur. From meals to gas, it can really add up. In general, the Canadian tax system limits business-related meal, entertainment, and other expenses to be deductible only up to 50 per cent. Now, **our Conservative Government has raised the deductible portion of meal expenses to 75 per cent for 2010 and it will go up again to 80 per cent for 2011.** Long-haul truck drivers are getting more money back in their pockets for their time spent on Canada's roads. (Check for eligibility criteria by calling 1.800.959.8281 or by visiting www.cra-arc.gc.ca.) For more tax tips, see www.leonbenoit.ca.

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and the victims of crime as they do for the perpetrators?

LACK OF CONCERN FOR CHILDREN

On February 10th, the Liberals reversed their previous stance and decided to oppose legislation that will impose mandatory prison sentences on drug dealers that sell drugs near schools. How can you *possibly* justify opposing a bill which would help protect children from drug dealers? To make matters worse, the NDP recently forced a Parliamentary Committee to hear from witnesses who think that *child rapists don't necessarily need to go to prison*.

LIBERALS WORRIED ABOUT 'HARSH SENTENCES'

Earlier last year the Liberals refused to support our Government's bill which would crack down on drug traffickers and organized crime. They claimed that the legislation would be "too harsh" on criminals, and doubted whether the costs would be worth it. That legislation would introduce mandatory jail time for drug traffickers. Drug trafficking severely harms our communities. It destroys lives and families.

I fully support our Conservative Government's stringent justice measures. Mr. Ignatieff seems to think that we shouldn't punish criminals because of the cost. However, Canadians demand justice, and our government will deliver it as promised. We will continue to put the rights of law-abiding Canadians before the rights of criminals.

**NOTE: This citizen's arrest authority applies when it is not feasible in the circumstances for a peace officer (i.e. a police officer) to make the arrest.*

LOWER TAXES FOR WORKERS & BUSINESSES

Our Conservative Government is putting money back into the pockets of working Canadians with the Canada Employment Amount. Most Canadian employees qualify for a tax credit on up to \$1,051 in 2010. We are always working to lower your taxes; and, through this credit, we are making it easier for Canadians to keep the returns from their hard work.

When a family farm or small business passes from one generation to the next, the property or shares are subject to Capital Gains Tax. In years previous, the first \$500,000 of the value was tax-free. Our Conservative Government has increased this exemption to \$750,000. By doing so, our Conservative Government is taking real action to help keep family businesses where they belong: in the family.

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

RIGHT:

Leon was very pleased to have the opportunity to speak with one of his constituents, Kaitlyn Lopushinsky from during her visit to Ottawa.



ENCOUNTERS WITH CANADA—Kaitlyn was participating in Encounters with Canada, a national youth forum. Every week of the school year, 120 to 148 teens from across Canada (ages 14 to 17) travel to Ottawa. They have the opportunity to discover their country through each other, learn about Canadian institutions, meet famous and accomplished Canadians, explore exciting career options, develop their civic leadership skills and live an extraordinary bilingual experience. For more information, visit http://www.ewc-rdc.ca/en/about_us/index.html.

LOWER TAXES FOR STUDENTS

TEXTBOOK TAX CREDIT

The costs of post-secondary education can be challenging for Canadian students and their parents. Along with tuition and living expenses, textbooks are a necessary part of post-secondary learning. Our Conservative Government is taking action to help offset the cost of the post-secondary education with the textbook tax credit. This is another way that our Conservative Government is helping Canadian students achieve their dreams and their potential.

SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY EXEMPTION

Canada's students work hard to earn good grades while paying for their schooling. Our Conservative Government is helping ease the tax burden on hard-working students that achieve strong results by exempting scholarships, fellowships and bursaries from their income for tax purposes.

Getting an education shouldn't be taxing. Our Conservative Government is helping students and their families make post-secondary education more affordable and more attainable.

Check for eligibility criteria by calling 1.800.959.8281 or by visiting www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

For more tax tips, see www.leonbenoit.ca.

FOCUSSED ON SENIORS

Leon was very pleased when the Government managed to ensure that Bill C-31, the federal legislation that stops the payment of Old Age Security (OAS) benefits to convicted criminals, became law before the end of 2010.

“As the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development made clear, it was wrong that convicted killers like Clifford Olson were receiving taxpayers’ entitlements such as OAS benefits,” said Leon. “Our government made a commitment to Canadians to end these entitlements for prisoners, and we delivered.”

Benoit points out that the move was received in a very positive manner by many organizations, including Victims of Violence. “As their President, Ms. Sharon Rosenfeldt, confirmed, ‘It’s great to see that this government is putting victims and taxpayers first, ahead of criminals,’” Leon explains.

“I know from the recent economic consultations I held throughout Vegreville-Wainwright in January that my constituents certainly feel it is common sense that prisoners who are already receiving taxpayer-funded room and board should not also receive OAS,” says Leon.

In addition to suspending Old Age Security benefits for federal inmates who have sentences of two years or more, the Government of Canada will begin negotiations with the provinces and territories to implement these changes for provincial and territorial inmates who have sentences exceeding 90 days.

Low-income spouses and common-law partners of prisoners will *not* lose their entitlement to the income-tested Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Allowances.

Old Age Security benefit payments will be suspended the month following an inmate’s incarceration. Benefits will start or resume the month the individual is released.

C-428 UPDATE

During the town hall meetings he held throughout January, Leon heard from many constituents who were still concerned about the Liberal Private Members’ Bill which would reduce residency requirements for Old Age Security from 10 years to three years.

“I want to make it very clear that I do not support Ruby Dhalla’s PMB, and I will vote against it, should it come before the House of Commons,” promises Leon.

At a cost of over \$700 million, Ms Dhalla’s proposal is costly and irresponsible and would be paid for by Canadian taxpayers. Leon believes it is just one more example of the Liberals’ lack of concern regarding the recession Canadians are currently fighting.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Leon has been continuing his work as Chair of the Natural Resources committee. The Committee's study on Canada's energy security is ongoing, which includes looking at unconventional sources of oil and gas development such as deepwater offshore drilling, shale gas production and exploration, and oil sands development.

“In my role as Chair, I have been focusing on promoting the economic benefits of Alberta's oil sands and shale gas, and countering the falsely exaggerated claims by many environmental organizations that these energy resources are ‘dirty’” says Leon. **“It is fascinating to hear about some of the new technologies and processes that are being used to develop Alberta's and Canada's energy sources.”**

NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS ASSOC.

Leon has long been involved in the Canadian North American Treaty Organization's Parliamentary Association (NATO PA), representing Canada at meetings of parliamentarians from the NATO countries. He continues his role as Chair of the Canadian NATO PA, and was recently elected as Chair of the Economics and Security Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations at the annual session in Warsaw, Poland. Through this role, Leon will continue to work on trade issues that impact both farmers and businesses in Vegreville-Wainwright, as well as security issues.

The Committee Leon chairs will be touring Canada's oilsands and shale gas sites this summer. The goal is to show European and American Parliamentarians the real situation in terms of the environment and the new technology used to produce oil and gas. Environmentalists often distort the facts when speaking about the environmental impact of the oilsands, and deliberately ignore the advances in technology which have led to a *much* greener industry.

“In my opinion, the best way to communicate this to foreign Parliamentarians—and therefore other governments—is to have them come to Canada, see it for themselves and question the people involved directly,” explains Leon. “I am very pleased at *any* chance to showcase Canada's achievements in the oilsands and I will be honoured to host my NATO colleagues this summer.”

Leon's staff has compiled a Handbook for Vegreville-Wainwright Seniors. It is a compilation of information that he hopes will prove useful and important to seniors specifically, with local phone numbers and local addresses. If you would like a copy, please contact your local organization, or call 1-800-463-1194 and leave a message with your complete name and address. You could also fax your order to (613) 996-9011 or send an email to benoil9@parl.gc.ca.

Vegreville-Wainwright MP, Leon Benoit



LEFT:
Leon speaks with Dr. Vladimir Gregoriev, the Minister of Nature Protection for Republic of Sakha, during the February 13th ceremonies.
(PHOTO COURTESY ELK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK)

WOOD BISON TRANSFER

In February, Leon was joined by representatives from the Republic of Sakha, Russia, to announce the upcoming transfer of 30 wood bison from Elk Island National Park, Alberta to Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia).

As Leon explained, this is the second shipment of wood bison to Yakutsk—a first group of 30 bison was sent in 2006 and have successfully reproduced.

As the bison and elk herds increase within Elk Island National Park, surplus animals are provided to conservation initiatives. Through the years, the Park can boast of having provided over 1000 plains bison, and nearly a thousand wood bison to conservation initiatives around the world.

SEVEC EXCHANGE

Exchanges Canada is a Government of Canada initiative that helps Canadian youth connect with one another, experience the diversity of Canada's communities, languages and cultures, and get involved in the future of the country. SEVEC is all about helping youth 12 to 17 years of age to exchange ideas, experience new ways of life, and explore your country. It is THE place to tap into a wide variety of information. Want to travel Canada? Looking to volunteer in another city? Feel like learning another language? Over 300,000 youth between the ages of 11 and 18 have participated in SEVEC, including several schools throughout Vegreville-Wainwright. If you, or your school, would like to get involved, visit <http://www.sevec.ca/en>

CONSTITUENCY EVENTS

Leon very much appreciates the chance to attend events throughout the riding. As his schedule is booked several weeks in advance, he urges organizers to give his constituency office a "heads-up" as early as possible in the planning stages. The contact information is as follows:

PO Box 300, Mannville, AB T0B 2W0

Tel: (780) 763-6130 / **Fax:** (780) 763-6132

Email: benoil1@parl.gc.ca **Toll free:** 1-800-463-1194

How Can We Help?

The MP office is not an intake point for federal issues, but can certainly make inquiries if a constituent has encountered difficulties dealing with the federal government. We generally only get involved *after* avenues within the respective department have been exhausted.

Both my Ottawa and Mannville offices are glad to help with any problems concerning the federal government, any of its departments, or with its policies. People often contact us regarding Citizenship and Immigration, Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, Canada Revenue Agency matters and agricultural issues.

We can also help you request congratulatory messages for family or friends (or yourself) for special birthdays and wedding anniversaries.



Please use any of the contact methods found below, or go to my website to send us an e-mail message. **Please remember to include your full address in any correspondence so we can contact you.**

Constituency Office

P.O. Box 300

Phone: (780) 763-6130

Mannville, AB T0B 2W0

Toll Free: 1-800-463-1194

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