



GOVERNMENT HAPPENINGS

Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act:

This legislation delivers on our Government's longstanding commitment to give Western Canadian farmers the marketing freedom they deserve. Once passed, this bill will allow prairie farmers to seek their own contracts for their grains through an open market beginning in the 2011-12 crop year.

The Canadian Wheat Board will remain as a voluntary pooling option for those farmers who wish to pool their grains. The Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act implements a voluntary check-off that will be in place for to support the ongoing work of CIGI, the WGRF and the Malting Barley Technical Centre and ensure there is no gap in funding. In fact, these changes will give them new opportunities, especially in the development and promotion of new varieties of niche grain markets which have been extremely limited by the Board in the past.

Supply management and the Canadian Wheat Board are two entirely different things. Secondary processing in the dairy industry is quite advanced whereas innovation and investment has all but stagnated in the grain industry. The CWB was imposed only on Western grain farmers by Government during war time to ensure cheap wheat to Europe. The supply management system is national in scope and was created in response to farmers' demands for stability and a profitable farm gate. Stated clearly in our platform, our Government will continue to steadfastly support supply management and give every grain farmer the right to choose how they market their grain.

Pooled Registered Pension Plans:

PRPPs will be an innovative new pension plan designed to address the lack of low-cost, large scale retirement savings options available to many Canadians. Some Canadians may be failing to take advantage of the savings opportunities offered to them through individual structures like RRSPs. For example, on average each Canadian has over \$18,000 in unused RRSP room. In addition, many Canadians can only access a workplace pension plan if their employers offer one. Many employers do not want the legal or administrative burden of offering a pension plan. As a result, over 60% of Canadians do not have a workplace pension.

The design features of the PRPP will remove a lot of the traditional barriers that might have kept some employers in the past from offering pension plans to their employees. The design of these plans will also be straightforward to allow for simple enrolment and management. A third-party PRPP administrator will take on most of the responsibilities that employers bear in existing pension plans, including then administrative and legal duties associated with administering a pension plan. By pooling pension savings, PRPPs will offer Canadians greater purchasing power. Basically, Canadians will be able to buy in bulk. Achieving lower prices than would otherwise be available means they will get greater returns on their savings and more money will be left in their pockets when they retire.

2012 PARLIAMENTARY GUIDE SUMMER JOB PROGRAM

Are you Canadian, bilingual and a university student? If so, apply to join the team of Parliamentary Guides who...

- Welcome visitors to the Centre Block and answer their questions;
- Interpret Canada's political history and legislative process, the art and architecture of the Parliament buildings, the Peace Tower, the Memorial Chamber and much more;
- Adapt the content of the tour to the needs of groups which may include international visitors, dignitaries and school children.

As a Parliamentary Guide, you can hone your speaking abilities, perfect your second official language and form special friendships with people from coast to coast! The Parliamentary Guide program is currently accepting applications for the full-time position of Parliamentary Guide for the summer, covering the period of May to Labour Day, 2012. The deadline for submitting applications is January 13, 2012.

Visit www.parl.gc.ca/guides to apply.

OUT & ABOUT THE OKANAGAN-SHUSWAP, NOVEMBER 2011



On November 10, 2011, I celebrated the completion of the Highway 1 Hilltop to Balmoral upgrade project with Shuswap MLA, George Abbott. I continue to work with our partners to bring upgrades to the Trans-Canada Highway.



This month, we celebrated the completion of the Hwy 97A four-laning upgrade. It was a pleasure to witness the success of this project in the City of Armstrong and Township of Spallumcheen.

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