

TED MENZIES, MP
Macleod

Happy Holidays



The original 'Team Menzies'

www.tedmenzies.ca
ted.menzies@parl.gc.ca
403-625-5532 or 1-866-636-9437

A Message From Ted

Dear Friends,

We're well into our fall session after an eventful summer break, and I am pleased to take this opportunity to update you on our Government's activities in the 41st Parliament.



In July and August, I had the privilege of attending various events throughout Macleod including: the South Country Fair, Bragg Creek Days Parade and the 2011 Foothills Highland Games, where I enjoyed interacting with constituents like you. In September, I was able to extend my congratulations for the grand opening of the Okotoks Tennis Courts and outdoor recreation facilities improvements, as well as the Springbank Park Fall Fair.

I have been busy with my role as Minister of State (Finance) over the summer and fall, by taking the opportunity to meet with Provincial Finance Ministers and small businesses across the country regarding Pooled Registered Pension Plans and other financial matters. Rest assured that our Government continues to stay focused on strengthening Canada's economy, and ensuring a sustainable economic future for generations to come.

Our Government's top priorities for this fall session in Parliament included the introduction of the Crime Omnibus bill (Bill C-10), which reinforced our election promise to get tough on crime and make our country a safer place for deserving, hard-working citizens. The October 18th tabling of the Wheat Board legislation (Bill C-18) by Minister of Agriculture, Gerry Ritz, will bring the long-awaited freedom of marketing choice to Western Canadian wheat farmers.

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A Message From Ted

As promised in this past election, Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety, introduced the Ending the Long Gun Registry (Bill C-19) to repeal the wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry.

Should you have any concerns you wish to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to contact the Constituency Office in Clarendon at (403) 625-5532. I value input from constituents and welcome comments and feedback on issues that are important to you.

It is an honour to represent the riding of Macleod in Ottawa, and I look forward to continuing to help build a better future for Canadians. On behalf of myself, Sandy, and my entire family I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, with a prosperous 2012 year to come.

Sincerely,
Ted

WHAT'S INSIDE

A Message From Ted	2
In The Riding.....	4
Pooled Registered Pensions	6
The Year in Review	8
Fighting Crime.....	10
Canada's Veterans.....	11
Strategic and Operating Review Committee.....	12
Photos.....	13
Government Services.....	14



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In The Riding

It was another busy summer in the beautiful riding of Macleod. I had the pleasure of attending many wonderful events that took me from Twin Butte in the far south of the riding to Kananaskis Country in the north. The summer kicked off with Canada Day celebrations in the community of Redwood Meadows, followed by the Village of Champion's Centennial Celebration on July 2nd.



July 16th found me at Bragg Creek Days taking part in the annual parade. This year I had the pleasure of riding in a beautifully restored 1966

Pontiac Bonneville, fully equipped with longhorns and a saddle!

It was then down south to the Crowsnest Pass to help celebrate another great product of Canada's Action Plan, the Crowsnest Community Trail. This is a 23 kilometre, non-motorized trail network that connects all of the Crowsnest Pass communities together. What a beautiful trail and great project! Later that day, I attended the kick-off for the annual Doors Open Heritage Festival in Blairmore. It was a great day in the Crowsnest Pass.

On July 29th, I travelled to the community of Twin Butte to help commemorate the Veteran's Memorial Garden and Raising of Flags, as well as to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Twin Butte Community Hall. The dedication and enthusiasm of the community was evident, and the Hall continues to be the hub of this vibrant area, even after 75 years. It was a pleasure to relax and visit with the area residents at the barbeque held after the ceremony.

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In The Riding

August found me at events such as the Nanton Days Parade on the 1st, the opening of the newly refurbished Granum Seniors Drop-in Centre on the 2nd, and back to my hometown of Claresholm for Fair Days and annual parade on August 13th.

The flurry of activities continued into September with the Springbank Park for All Seasons Fall Fair on September 10th. I try to attend the fall fairs throughout the riding every year, as it is a wonderful opportunity to meet and visit with constituents.

On Monday, September 12th I had the pleasure of travelling to beautiful Kananaskis Country to recognize and celebrate the addition of a new roof on the main hall of Easter Seals Camp Horizon. I was privileged to have two extraordinary tour guides. These two young Ambassadors attend Easter Seals Camp Horizon and treated me to the grand tour of this amazing facility.



The summer ended with the Grand Opening of the refurbished Tower Hill Tennis Courts in Okotoks on September 17th and then back to Ottawa with Parliament resuming on the 19th. Whew!

Although my new position kept me extremely busy in Ottawa as well as travelling across the country visiting each province and territory throughout the summer, I was honoured and proud to be able to attend so many events in the most beautiful part of the country, the riding of Macleod.

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Pooled Registered Pension Plans

I was busy attending events in Macleod over the summer, however I also spent much of my summer working to improve Canada's retirement income system.

We are fortunate in Canada to have a sound retirement system, sounder in fact, than many other countries in the world. Our system has been recognized by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as a model that succeeds in reducing poverty among Canadian seniors and in providing high levels of replacement income to retired workers.

Canada gets a lot of attention from experts all over the world for our sound and balanced retirement system. For example, I recently spoke at the World Pensions Forum, which brought together legislators, policy experts, and pension investors and administrators from across the globe. I was asked to deliver the keynote address at the Summit, and share my experiences in working cooperatively with provinces on ways to ensure our retirement income system's ongoing strength. It was a great learning experience and I am pleased to report that Canada is viewed as a world leader on pensions.

As you know, I've been focused on improving the Canadian retirement income system for a number of years now. In 2009, I chaired the committee which oversaw an in-depth examination of retirement income adequacy. From March to May 2010, Minister Flaherty and I participated in roundtable discussions, expert conferences and public town hall meetings across the country to gather input directly from Canadians on the retirement income system. These consultations led federal, provincial, and territorial finance ministers at the December 2010 Finance Ministers Meeting to agree on a framework for Pooled Registered Pension Plans (PRPPs).

Since being appointed Minister of State (Finance) on January 4, 2011, I have been focused on developing this PRPP framework.



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Pooled Registered Pension Plans

What are Pooled Registered Pension Plans (PRPPs)?

PRPPs are a new kind of defined contribution pension plan that will be available to employers, employees and the self-employed. PRPPs are not for everyone but they are designed to address a growing gap in retirement savings – particularly amongst modest and middle income earners. PRPPs will provide a new, accessible, straightforward and low-cost retirement savings option.

Many small businesses currently do not offer a pension plan for their employees, as some small business owners do not have the time or expertise to sponsor a plan. PRPP will be straightforward in design and professional administrators will ensure that savings are invested in the best interests of plan members. These innovations will mean that new workplace pensions will be available for the first time to millions of Canadians that did not have access to a workplace pension before.

Since these plans will involve large pooled funds, plan members will benefit from the lower investment management costs associated with the scale of these funds. Essentially, if you are a PRPP member, you will be buying in bulk. This will leave more money in your pocket when you retire. The design of these plans will be straightforward. They are intended to be largely harmonized from province to province, this means lower administrative costs, and will allow PRPP participants to be able to move their savings with them from job to job.

This summer, I toured across the country to meet with the territorial and provincial finance ministers to solicit their input on the PRPP. I also held roundtable discussions and public forums in every province to receive the input of Canadians.

I am pleased to report that our hard work paid off and the PRPP legislation was tabled in the House of Commons this Fall. If you are interested in learning more about PRPPs, I would encourage you to visit the Finance Canada web site at <http://www.fin.gc.ca>.



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The Year in Review



Ted at work in Ottawa and Macleod

Top Left: Ted speaks at
Easter Seals Camp Horizon

Middle: Ted meets with the
Finance Minister and High
Commissioner from
Trinidad and Tobago



Bottom Left: Ted and the
Prime Minister chat
during this summer's
consultation tour for
Pooled Registered
Pension Plans

Bottom Right: Ted at a
Calgary Chamber of
Commerce meeting



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The Year in Review



Left: Ted votes on the Crime Bill

Below: Ted and Sandy attend the S.T.A.R.S Gala in Bragg Creek



Above: Ted speaks at the re-opening of the Okotoks Tennis Courts



Right: Ted and Sandy on Parliament Hill
Photo credit to:
Danielle Lynn Photography



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Fighting Crime



Canadians delivered a strong mandate to get tough on crime and keep communities safe, and our Government has responded to those demands. The Safe Streets and Communities Act (Bill C-10), sponsored by the Honourable Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice, combines previously debated measures from nine former bills. The legislation will help to protect Canadians by holding law-breakers responsible for their actions, delivering stricter laws, and standing up for the rights of innocent victims.

I am pleased to inform you that Bill C-10 includes:

- Harsh penalties not only for initial sexual offences, but for any conduct that initiates or facilitates sexual offenses against children;
- Measures to end house arrest as a punishment for violent and serious criminal offenses;
- Extension of the ineligibility period for pardon appeals by two to five years, depending on the degree and nature of the offense;
- Measures to address inmate and offender accountability, responsibility, and management;
- Tougher sentences for drug traffickers;
- The ability for victims to sue participants in acts of terror, and increased protection for victims of terrorist attacks; and
- Authorization for immigration officials to refuse work permits for foreigners who are at risk of becoming victims of exploitation or trafficking.

Our Government received a strong mandate in the last election to protect hard-working, law-abiding citizens by cracking down on crime. To find out more information on Bill C-10, please visit: www.justice.gc.ca.



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Canada's Veterans

Our Government recognizes our Veterans as those who gave selflessly for the freedom we now experience and enjoy; and as those who represent the values that Canada prizes: human rights, the rule of law, freedom, and democracy. That is why we have made significant improvements to the Veterans Charter, in appreciation of the sacrifices that so many have made.



The enhanced charter features: a minimum pre-tax income of \$40,000 a year for Veterans who are in rehabilitation or, if they are no longer able to be gainfully employed, until age 65; expanded eligibility for additional monthly allowances (worth up to \$1,632 per month, payable for life) for seriously injured Veterans; and a new \$1,000 monthly supplement to the Permanent Impairment Allowance (payable for life) to help our most seriously injured or ill Veterans who are unable to return to suitable, gainful employment.

The Charter also includes new payment options for Canadian Forces members and Veterans receiving a disability award. While these men and women continue to have the choice of a lump-sum payment, they are also now able to receive a disability award as either an annual payment (with interest) over any number of years they choose, or as a combination of a partial lump-sum payment and annual payments (with interest).

Our Government is committed to honouring our Veterans by cutting red tape and working to offer the hassle-free service that has been requested. Over the next five years, an additional \$189 million dollars has been set aside for the Veterans who are most in need. A minimum of 4,000 Veterans will qualify for this enhanced financial support during this time.

Are you a Veteran? Do you know someone who is a Veteran and may benefit from these enhancements? To learn more about the services and benefits available to Canadian Veterans, please visit: www.veterans.gc.ca.



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Strategic and Operating Review Committee

As part of our low-tax plan for jobs and growth, our Government is committed to spending wisely and getting our budget numbers 'back to black'. To achieve this, Budget 2011 announced a Strategic and Operating Review that will look at spending across government and find at least \$4B in annual savings by 2014-15. This Deficit Reduction Action Plan (DRAP) will give the Government more flexibility to continue paying down debt and investing in the priorities of Canadians.

I was honoured when the Prime Minister appointed me as Vice-Chair of the sub-committee on the Strategic and Operating Review after the last election. I will be working closely with the Chair, the Honourable Tony Clement, and my other Cabinet colleagues to carefully weigh each of the 66 DRAP reports that have been presented over the fall/winter months. Each federal department and agency has been asked to offer up a 5% and 10% savings option. Our role on the Committee will be to look at the impacts of these proposals and ensure taxpayers are getting best value-for-money, while maintaining effective delivery of the necessary services.

Unlike the Liberal government in the 1990s, we will not balance the books by slashing health and social transfer payments to the provinces or cutting Employment Insurance benefits. Rather, we are going after operational savings by taking steps to reduce waste and inefficiency across departments and streamline basic functions. You spend your money wisely and so should our Government.

Our Government's goal with DRAP is to transform the federal public service into a more lean and efficient organization that can better serve the needs of Canadians. We're also taking prudent action now so that Canada is not faced with the systemic problems the United States and much of Europe are contending with. Our plan is reasonable and I am confident it will keep us at the head of the pack on economic growth and prosperity.



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Photos



Above: Ted being sworn in as MP for Macleod in May.



Above: Ted at a Finance Ministers of the Americas and Caribbean event in Calgary

Below: Ted and the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport in Calgary at a press conference

Below: Ted talks with Tim Groser, Minister of Trade for New Zealand



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Government Services

Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, Canada Child Benefit

Calgary South Human Resources Service Centre

Fisher Park Place II, Suite 100
6712 Fisher Street SE,
Calgary, AB T2H 1X3
Phone: 403-297-4024

Lethbridge Human Resources Service Centre

200 5th Avenue S.,
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4L1
Phone: 403-380-2272

Crowsnest Pass

12501-20 Ave.
Box 818
Blairmore, AB
T0K 0E0
Phone: 403-562-3285

High River

309 Macleod Trail SW
High River, AB
T1V 1T2
Phone: 403-652-8620

Southwest Alberta

160—782 Main Street
Pincher Creek, AB
T0K 1W0
Phone: 403-627-1125

Canada Business Development Centers

200, 419-7 Street South
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4A9
Fax: 403-382-3052

220-4th Avenue South East
Calgary, AB T2G 0L1
Fax: 403-264-5843

Taxation Services

220-4th Avenue SE
Calgary, AB Toll Free: 1-800-959-8281
Government of Canada Online: www.canada.gc.ca
Government of Canada Toll Free: 1-800-O-Canada



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Contact Information

Constituency Office

4925 1st Street West, Box 40
Claresholm, AB T0L 0T0
Telephone: (403) 625-5532
Toll Free: 1-866-636-9437
Facsimile: (403) 625-5592
www.tedmenzies.ca

Parliamentary Office

256 Confederation
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Telephone: (613) 995-8471
Facsimile: (613) 996-9770
ted.menzies@parl.gc.ca

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We want to hear from you! Tell us...

What 3 priorities should we focus on in the next session?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ E-mail: _____



The Constituency Office in Clareholm is open
Monday-Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm.

Feel free to drop by our office at 4925 - 1st Street West (Main Street),
or call toll-free: 1-866-636-9437.

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**Ted Menzies, M.P.
House of Commons
Confederation Building, Room 256
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6**