KEEPING IN TOUCH

OTTAWA REPORT

Summer 2011

16600 Bayview Ave., Ste. 206
Newmarket, ON L3X 1Z9

LOIS BROWN, M.P.
NEWMARKET-AURORA

Dear Newmarket and Aurora Residents,

I am honoured and humbled to be representing you as your Member of Parliament in Ottawa. I thank you for once again putting your trust in me and I will continue to work every day to defend your interests in Ottawa.

Much has been accomplished since the opening of the 41st Session of Parliament on June 3. Bill C-3, the *Supporting Vulnerable Seniors and Strengthening Canada's Economy Act* received Royal Assent on June 26. As a result of measures contained in Bill C-3, Canada's most vulnerable seniors received an additional $600 per year for single seniors and $840 per year for couples effective July 1. Other important measures that come into effect with the passage of Bill C-3 are those that will:

- ✓ Support provinces by extending the temporary Total Transfer Protection to 2011-12 representing nearly $1 Billion in additional support during the fragile economic recovery.
- ✓ Support young entrepreneurs by providing $20 million to the Canadian Youth Business Foundation.
- ✓ Assist part-time students by reducing the in-study interest rate to zero, bringing them in line with full-time students.
- ✓ Increase flexibility for accessing Registered Disability Savings Plan assets for beneficiaries with shortened life expectancies and ensuring that individuals can appeal.
- ✓ Support Canada's veterans by providing GST/HST relief for Royal Canadian Legion purchases of Remembrance Day poppies and wreaths.
- ✓ Provide $65 million for Genome Canada to launch a new competition in the area of human health, and sustain the operating costs of Genome Canada and Genome Centres.
- ✓ Enhance the transparency of the mortgage insurance framework.

In the coming weeks and months, I invite you to contact my office with any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to meeting and speaking with all of you as we move forward on the Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan, to continue the economic recovery and create jobs in Newmarket-Aurora and all of Canada.

Kindest regards,

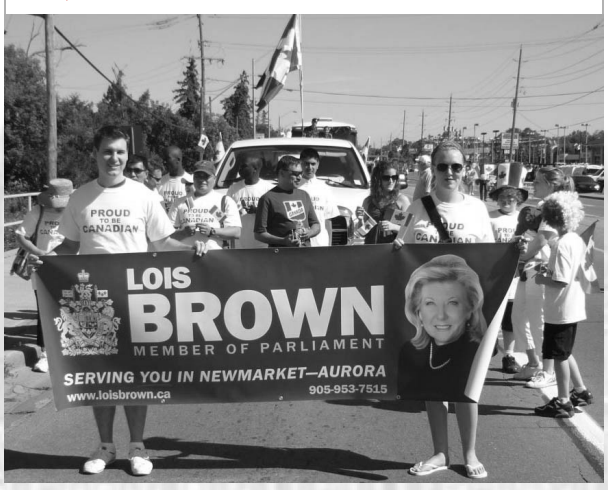
Lois

Tips for Travellers

If you are planning an out-of-country trip, it is a good idea to register with the Registration of Canadians Abroad at www.travel.gc.ca/register. This free service is provided so you can be contacted and assisted in the event of an emergency in a foreign country, such as a natural disaster or civil unrest, or to inform you of a family emergency at home.

Additional information and resources for those travelling can be found at www.voyage.gc.ca including:

- Traveller's checklist
- Pre-boarding information
- Passport information
- Visa requirements
- Children and travel
- Frequently Asked Questions



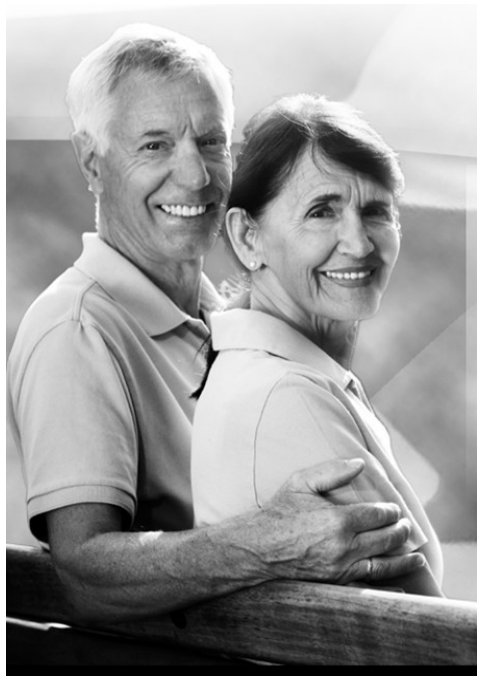
AN INSIDE GLANCE:

New support for seniors ..... PG 2
ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes program extended ..... PG 2
Lois Brown re-appointed Parliamentary Secretary ..... PG 2
Staying on the right track for jobs & economic growth ..... PG 2
New children's art credit ..... PG 3
Speech from the Throne ..... PG 3
Promoting research & innovation ..... PG 3
Making our streets & communities safer ..... PG 4

PROTECTING CANADA'S **FUTURE**

905-953-7515 www.LOISBROWN.ca Lois.Brown@parl.gc.ca

New Support for Seniors



The Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan is continuing to support seniors by:

- ✔ Enhancing the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for low-income seniors who will receive additional annual top-up benefits of up to $600 for single seniors and $840 for couples—helping more than 680,000 seniors across Canada.
- ✔ Enhancing the New Horizons for Seniors Program with an additional $10 million to promote volunteerism, mentorship and the social participation of seniors, and expand awareness of elder abuse.
- ✔ Extending the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers with an additional $50 million to provide employment assistance services and employability improvement programs to assist unemployed workers aged 55 to 64 with their return to work.
- ✔ Eliminating the mandatory retirement age for federally regulated employees: allowing Canadians to choose how long they wish to remain active in Canada's workforce.

Staying on the Right Track for Jobs & Economic Growth

Canadians gave our Conservative Government a strong mandate to stay focused on what matters, jobs and the economy. Our steady, modest job growth shows our Government is on the right track for the economy and hardworking families. Canada has now created nearly 590,000 net new jobs since July 2009, with seven straight quarters of economy growth.

Parliamentary Secretaries in the Canadian Ministry

However, we aren't out of the woods yet - too many Canadians are still looking for work and we are not immune to the still fragile global economic recovery.

To keep Canada's economy on the right, positive track we will continue to work hard at implementing the Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan. Staying the course with our prudent, low-tax plan will support Canada's economic recovery and help create more jobs for Canadians.

TAKE THE SURVEY
CONSULTING WITH YOU

Comments?
Take the Survey!
www.loisbrown.ca

ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes program extended by one year

Our Government has extended by one year, the ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes program. This $400 million national program provides grants of up to $5,000 for homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient, helping pocketbooks and the environment at the same time.

Over 500,000 Canadians have already taken advantage of this program, reaping an average energy savings of 20 percent per household while reducing 1.8 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

There are two important changes to the extended program. First, there is a requirement for participants to register directly before booking their evaluation. Second, homeowners will be required to provide receipts to their energy advisor at the time of the post-retrofit evaluation to confirm eligibility for the grant.

To participate, homeowners must first register online at www.ecoaction.gc.ca/homes or by calling 1-800-O-CANADA (1-800-622-6232). Then, they must hire a local service organization to send an energy advisor, licensed by Natural Resources Canada, to perform a pre-retrofit evaluation of the home (unless the property has already had an evaluation since April 2007). All upgrades, and the post-retrofit evaluation, must take place before March 31, 2012.

Homeowners who participated in the program before April 1, 2011, and have not received the maximum amount for their current property, can submit an application for improvements purchased and installed after June 6, 2011.

Lois Brown re-appointed Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of International Cooperation

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has reappointed Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Lois Brown as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation.

As Parliamentary Secretary Ms. Brown will assist the Minister of International Cooperation by supporting productive dialogue between Parliamentarians and the Minister. The Minister of International Cooperation is responsible for Canada's overseas development assistance through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Lois Brown was first appointed as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation in January 2011.

905-953-7515 www.LOISBROWN.ca Lois.Brown@parl.gc.ca

New Children's Art Credit

Like physical fitness, participation in artistic, cultural, recreational and developmental activities can positively contribute to a child's development. At the same time, the costs of these activities can make them difficult for many parents to afford.

To better recognize the costs associated with children's artistic, cultural, recreational and developmental activities, Budget 2011 builds on the Government's record of helping families by proposing to introduce a 15-per-cent non-refundable Children's Arts Tax Credit.

The credit will be provided on up to $500 of eligible fees per child. The credit will be available for children under the age of 16 years for registration costs associated with participation in qualifying supervised activities. In respect of children eligible for the Disability Tax Credit, the age limit will be raised by two years and an additional $500 non-refundable amount will be provided.

This measure will apply to eligible expenses paid starting in the 2011 taxation year. It is estimated to save Canadian families $100 million each year.

Promoting Research & Innovation

Our government understands that in order to be a world leader in research and innovation, Canada must attract and develop talented people, increase our capacity for development, and promote education and skills.

Since 2006, Canada has placed first among G7 countries in terms of spending on research and development in the higher education sector as a share of our economy. Through the Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan, our Government is investing more for the benefit of talented and hard-working researchers in Canada.

We're delivering additional funding to three federal granting councils who support advanced research at Canada's universities, colleges and research hospitals – including the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). We will also establish 10 additional Canada Excellence Research Chairs, which helps attract and support world-leading researchers in areas of specific importance to Canada. We are also increasing funding to support Brain Canada's efforts to develop new diagnostics, treatments and cures for brain disorders, including Alzheimer's disease.

Speech from the Throne

On Friday, June 3, 2011, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, delivered the Government's Speech from the Throne to open the first session of the 41st Parliament, and to outline our Government's agenda for Canadian families.

Canadians have expressed their desire for a strong, stable national government. With this strong mandate, our Conservative government will deliver on its commitments. To ensure we remain one of the world's top-performing advanced economies, our Government will pursue the following priorities:

- ✓ Helping create jobs and economic growth,
- ✓ Eliminating the deficit,
- ✓ Delivering for law-abiding Canadians,
- ✓ Upholding accountability and integrity in Government.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, our Conservative Government will deliver on the promises we have made – for individuals, families, and all regions of the country – as we move forward together during this remarkable time in Canada's history.

Canada Youth Ambassadors Program Honours Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has announced the creation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's Parks Canada Youth Ambassadors Program, a special gift in honour of the couple's first Royal Tour of Canada and to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of Parks Canada. The program will inspire young Canadians from across the country to enjoy Canada's great outdoors.

As part of this annual summer program, two youth ambassadors will travel across Canada connecting with Canadian youth in their schools, communities and at Parks Canada locations. The first two ambassadors will begin their duties in spring 2012. They will visit Canada's national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas, and share their experiences and ideas through social media. The ambassadors will also encourage other young Canadians to connect with them and share their own outdoor Parks Canada experiences online.

The Parks Canada Youth Ambassadors Program is very much in keeping with the environmental and youth initiatives that Their Royal Highnesses support. It is a fitting gift to mark their first Royal Tour and the 100th anniversary of Parks Canada.

1911-2011 100 YEARS
parkscanada.gc.ca

CUT

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / TOWN

PROVINCE POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE EMAIL

NO POSTAGE REQUIRED

LOIS BROWN, M.P
16600 Bayview Ave.
Ste. 206
Newmarket, Ontario
L3X 1Z9

PROTECTING CANADA'S FUTURE

Working for you in Newmarket and Aurora

Canada: A Nation for which we can be proud of

This past Canada Day we celebrated our 144th year. July 1 was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all we hold so precious in this wonderful country of ours. From coast to coast to coast, we're surrounded by a natural inheritance that is the envy of the world. Last year, Her Majesty the Queen joined us on Parliament Hill. This year, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge – William and Kate – toured Canada for the first time as a married couple.

And as we look ahead to the coming year with its key anniversaries, including the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen, we should take the opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the rich history of our country. Next year also marks the 40th anniversary of our victory in the 1972 Summit Series and the 20th anniversary of the Jays' World Series victory.

Let us always remember those in the Canadian Forces that have protected, and continue to protect, our great country and the values it represents, through two world wars, numerous conflicts such as Afghanistan, and countless humanitarian missions. Over the past year, our troops have remained hard at work, despite risk and hardship, in difficult circumstances throughout the world. We have much to appreciate, on July 1, and every day.

Making our Streets & Communities Safer

On June 26, 2011 Minister Nicholson and Minister Blaney reintroduced Bill C-53 *The Fair and Efficient Criminal Trials* (*Mega-Trials).* This legislation aims to reduce the delays that are common when court proceedings are complex and drawn-out.

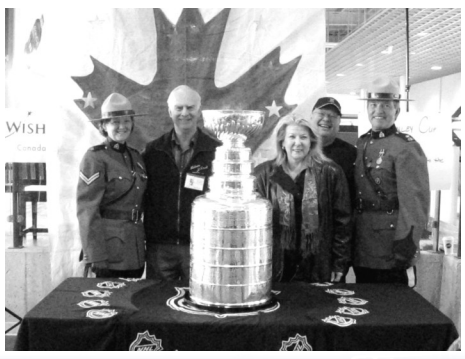
Our Government received a strong mandate to continue making our streets and communities safer. When there are numerous charges against multiple accused and there is a need to call many witnesses, mega-trials can take up a lot of court time and tend to progress very slowly.

We are taking action to ensure that the justice system can deliver justice when faced with mega-trials. Criminals involved in drug trafficking, white-collar crime, terrorism or organized crime must be dealt with swiftly and effectively so that our streets and communities can be safe places to live, work and raise our families.

The *Fair and Efficient Criminal Trials Act* would help improve Canada's justice system through:

- ✓ Stronger case management,
- ✓ Reduced duplication of processes,
- ✓ Improved criminal procedure.

Lois Brown, in the community and delivering results for Newmarket and Aurora



Is the Conservative Government on the right track to deliver results for you?

☐ YES

☐ NO

COMMENTS

905-953-7515 www.LOISBROWN.ca Lois.Brown@parl.gc.ca