

The Conversation

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Canada's new Governor General



Governor General David Johnston

David Johnston, 69, a respected academic and lawyer has been appointed as Canada's new Governor General. Johnston was the president and vice-chancellor of the University of Waterloo.

He succeeded Governor General Michaëlle Jean when her term ended in October. Prime Minister Stephen Harper praised Johnston, saying he "represents the best of Canada. He represents hard work, dedication, public service and humility. I am confident he will continue to embody these traits in his new role as the Crown's representative in Canada." He is a highly educated expert and has studied at Harvard, Cambridge and Queen's University.

He was officially sworn in as Governor General on October 1st, 2010. Ms. Jean is now the United Nations envoy to Haiti.

The Governor General was selected following extensive national consultations by an expert advisory committee.

Johnston has an impressive record of accomplishments and non-partisan public service, having worked for both Liberal and Conservative governments.

Russ greets the Queen



Russ and Andrea greet the Queen and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Russ and Andrea Hiebert were in Ottawa June 30 to greet Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, during her recent week-long tour of Canada. Russ greeted her in his capacity as the Canadian Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The Queen, Canada's Head of State, is also Head of the Commonwealth and Her Majesty has a deep interest in the activities of the Commonwealth. As she said earlier this year, "I have been closely associated with the Commonwealth through most of its existence. The personal and living bond I have enjoyed with leaders, and with people the world over, has always been more important in promoting our unity than symbolism alone. The Commonwealth [provides] ... an opportunity for its people to work together to achieve practical solutions to problems."

Veterans' Week November 5th-11th

This year we commemorate the end of an era with the passing of John Babcock, the last known Canadian Veteran of the First World War. It also marks the 65th anniversaries of the liberation of the Netherlands and V-E Day, as well as the liberation of Hong Kong prisoners of war and V-J Day. For more information please visit www.vac-acc.gc.ca.

"How will you remember?"

- Thank a Veteran
- Visit a Cenotaph
- Wear a Poppy
- Attend a Ceremony
- Observe 2 minutes of Silence



Economic Action Plan Update



Canada's Economic Action Plan is designed to help Canadians get back to work and get the economy moving forward. The plan is a combination of significant tax cuts for families and businesses, funding for job training, and money for new infrastructure. Almost all of the \$37 billion in planned 2009-2010 federal and provincial/territorial stimulus has now flowed into the economy.

"The EAP has contributed to the creation of over 430,000 jobs!"

That includes the \$4-billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund which has been spent on new roads and bridges. The \$500 million available under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program has been committed to almost 2,000 projects across the country to build and upgrade hockey arenas, soccer fields, swimming pools and other community-based recreational facilities. And, more than half of the \$1 billion of federal funds available over five years under the Green Infrastructure Fund has now been committed to green projects.

Since July of 2009, the Plan has contributed to the creation of over 430,000 jobs, and is partly responsible for the continuing drop in unemployment in Canada.

Identity Theft

The theft of identification is a growing criminal problem in Canada. In 2009, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre received identity fraud reports from 11,095 Canadian victims, totalling a loss of more than \$10 million. However, many more instances of identity theft go unreported.

Our Government has taken action. A new law tackling identity theft came into effect in January, this year. The new law cracks down on:

- obtaining and possessing identity information with the intent to use it in a crime;
- trafficking identity information knowing it will be used in a crime; and,
- unlawfully possessing or trafficking government-issued identity documents.



Office Operating Costs Reduced



Demonstrating fiscal responsibility, Russ Hiebert's office operating costs have been substantially reduced in the latest fiscal year - 2009/2010.

Office overhead, which includes staff salaries, office rent, supplies, utilities, phones, printing and travel, have been reduced by over \$110,000 from the previous year.

Russ says, "I am continuing to review all office operating costs to ensure that constituents get the best value for each dollar spent."

Questions & Answers with Russ

Q. Bill C-428: “Russ, there is a bill that was introduced recently which would allow immigrants to qualify for an Old Age pension after only living in Canada three years instead of ten years. I am very concerned about this bill, can you tell me more about it?”

A. This bill was introduced by a Liberal MP named Ruby Dhalla. The Old Age Security benefit is designed to assist retirees who have contributed to the system by paying taxes during their working lives. I believe it is inappropriate to pay this substantial benefit to individuals who have been in Canada only a short time and contributed little or nothing towards the system. I have heard from many people in our community who oppose this bill and I will vote against it in Parliament.

Q. “Russ, you have been the Chairman of the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) since 2006, can you tell me more about your responsibilities in that position?”

A. The CPA’s main focus is improving democracy in the developing nations of the Commonwealth. Canada is one of the oldest democracies in the world, and we have a lot of resources and experience to share with the smaller nations of the 54-member Commonwealth. I lead our efforts to assist these developing nations as they work to improve accountability in government, enhance respect for individual rights, and increase the effectiveness of their parliaments.

Q. “Russ, you have been the Co-Chairman of the Border Caucus since 2004, can you tell me how this role is relevant to your constituents?”

A. As many people will know, our community has the busiest border crossings in Western Canada and those crossings are a critical link in our trade network and regional economy. Delays at the border certainly cause headaches for travelling families, but they can also cost businesses millions of dollars in lost opportunity. My leadership of the Border Caucus in Ottawa is focused on improving the safe, secure and efficient flow of goods and people across the border for the benefit of our economy and our national security.

Russ on Parliament Hill



Speaking in the House of Commons.



Constituent Shell Busey visits Ottawa.



MP Jim Abbott and Russ at a TV interview.



US Ambassador David Jacobson made a presentation to the Border Caucus.



Students attending a conference in Ottawa.



Russ signs the Vimy Ridge Book of Remembrance.

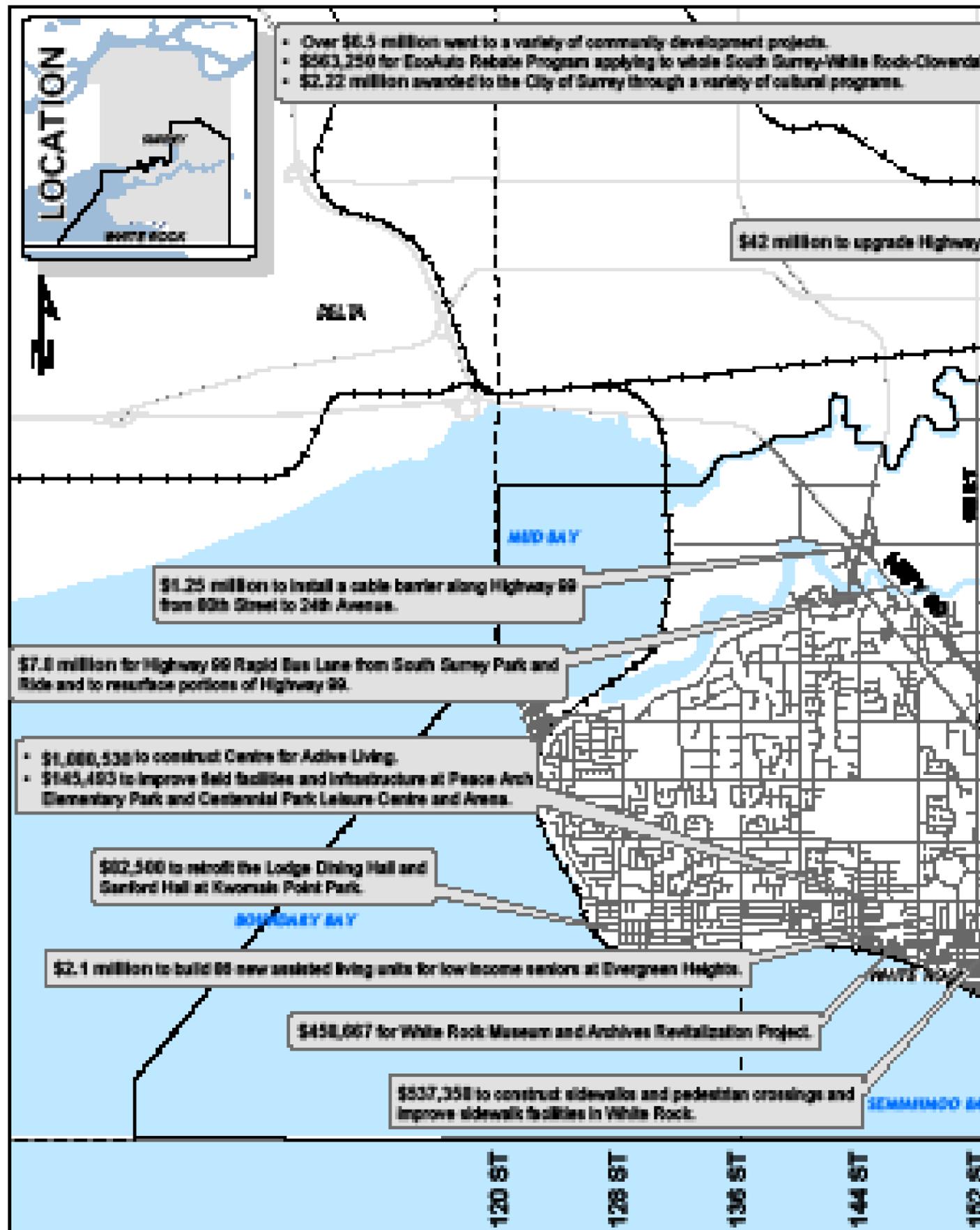


Russ, and wife Andrea, with the Prime Minister at 24 Sussex Drive.



A group of students from BC visit Ottawa.

Federally Funded P



Russ in the Constituency



Reception with high school graduation scholarship recipients.



Celebrating White Rock: Russ & Andrea greet thousands of spectators at the Spirit of the Sea Parade.



The Federal Finance Committee visits a local business.



Russ with White Rock Boy Scouts and their leaders.



A proud owner describes his entry in the Cloverdale Blueberry Festival Car Show.

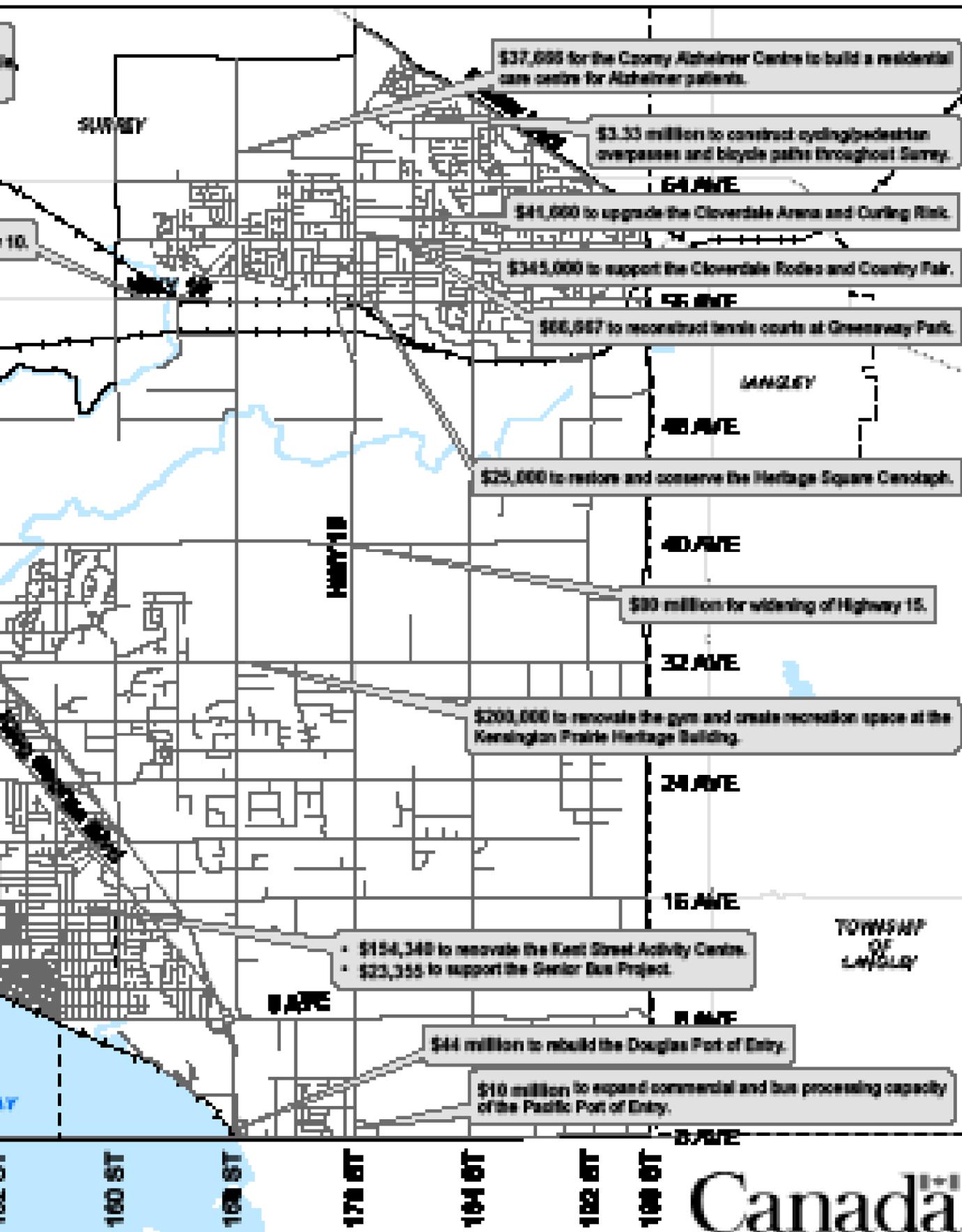


Russ speaks to new Canadian citizens at a citizenship ceremony in Surrey.



Left: Russ with Cloverdale Rodeo Parade volunteers.

Projects in our Community



Questions & Answers

with Russ cont...

Q. Bill C-23, Eliminate Pardons for Serious Crimes Act: "Russ, I learned that legislation was recently passed by the Conservative government which would make it tougher to obtain pardons for serious crimes. Would this bill prevent offenders like Karla Homolka from obtaining a pardon?"

A. With a pardon, an offender's record is wiped clean and he or she can apply for positions of trust in society. Unfortunately, for many years, pardons have been granted automatically to even the most serious criminals. However, that has now changed. Our new law extends the waiting period to apply for pardons, denies pardons to serious repeat offenders, and denies pardons where it would bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

Q. Russ, there has been much coverage of the move to eliminate the 40-page 'long form' of the Census. Will businesses and statisticians lose out because of a lack of information in the future?

A. Our Government believes it is not appropriate to coerce Canadians to divulge extensive private and personal information on the long-form census by threatening them with fines and/or jail time. Instead we are proceeding with a new voluntary long form survey, which will be sent to one third of Canadian homes to ensure its accuracy and usefulness to businesses and others. The changes to the census strike a better balance between collecting necessary data and protecting personal privacy.

Q. "Russ, can you describe your typical working day in Ottawa?"

A. Of course all MPs debate and vote on legislation and participate in Question Period. Though the House of Commons itself is in session considering legislation all week long, MPs actually spend much of their days in various Committee meetings. I serve on two of these committees: Finance, and International Human Rights. A significant portion of each day is also spent communicating with constituents, fulfilling my duties as a Co-Chairman of the Parliamentary Border Caucus, Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and meeting with a variety of organizations.



Office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsman

The office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsman was created to see that Canadians get the professional service and fair treatment they are entitled to from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

That means Canadians now have someone independent and impartial, outside the CRA, to uphold service rights, review complaints, and address systemic problems.

For more information call:
1-866-586-3839
www.taxpayersrights.gc.ca

Update on Pensions

Russ serves on the Finance Committee of the House of Commons. He brought the Committee to Surrey in September for a pre-budget consultation.

Recently Russ and the Committee completed a study of the pension system in Canada and issued a report on the Retirement Income Security of Canadians.

The government members on the Committee made a series of recommendations, including: lowering taxes still further for retirees, examining measures to increase oversight of financial advisor fees, reviewing the OAS and GIS rates, strengthening the Canada Pension Plan and modernizing the regulations governing private pension plans.

If you would like to receive a copy of this report, please contact Russ' office.

Creating Jobs, Tackling Crime

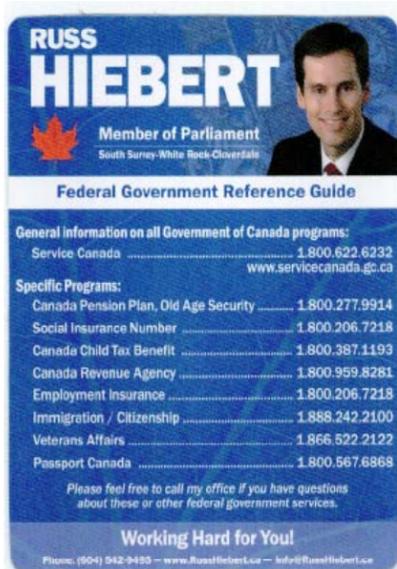
A Letter from your Member of Parliament

Dear Constituent,

A lot has changed over the last year. After a brief recession brought on by the global economic slowdown, Canada's economy is moving forward strongly once again. Our government's Economic Action Plan is having its intended impact in providing stimulus and creating jobs.

Unemployment has dropped below 8% and over 430,000 new jobs have been created in the past year.

Canada is becoming a prime destination for global entrepreneurs as our competitive tax rates and strong banking sector give confidence to investors and corporations. As well, our national finances are rapidly improving and we are ahead of schedule in reducing our deficit.



Even so, much work remains to be done. As your Member of Parliament, I arranged for the House of Commons Finance Committee to visit Surrey and hold hearings in September so that our next budget and the future financial direction of Canada.

This Fall, Parliament is set to tackle a series of criminal justice bills that will address white collar crime, youth crime and identity theft, among other measures. And, with the support of the opposition, I hope to see progress on the issues of Senate Reform and additional seats for British Columbia in the Commons.

I hope you will always feel free to contact me with any comments or questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Russ Hiebert
Member of Parliament
South Surrey-White Rock- Cloverdale

Please contact my community office at 604-542-9495 if you would like a free magnetic Federal Government Reference Guide.

Tax Relief for Families

Canada's Economic Action Plan included almost \$160 billion in tax relief for individuals and families over 2008-09 and the following five fiscal years. The typical Canadian family is saving over \$3000 annually as a result of these tax cuts.

Among the tax measures taken:

- The basic personal exemption has been raised again.
- The 'marriage penalty' has been removed.
- All tax payers are benefiting from the reduction in the lowest personal income tax rate to 15 per cent from 16 per cent.

"The typical Canadian family is saving over \$3000 annually as a result of these tax cuts!"

- The Age Credit amount has been increased by \$1,000 to provide additional tax relief to lower and middle-income seniors.
- The Home Renovation Tax Credit provided an estimated 4.6 million Canadian families with up to \$1,350 in tax relief on eligible renovation projects.
- To help small businesses, the amount of small business income eligible for the reduced federal income tax rate was further increased to \$500,000.
- All Canadians – even those who do not earn enough to pay personal income tax—are benefiting from the 2-percentage-point reduction in the Goods and Services Tax rate.
- The Tax-Free Savings Account, introduced in Budget 2008, is improving incentives to save through a flexible, registered investment tool that allows Canadians to earn tax-free investment income.

Cut here

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Please fill out the following:

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E-mail: _____

- Add me to your E-mail list, to receive regular E-mail updates from Russ.
- I am interested in learning more about The Conservative Party of Canada.
- I am interested in volunteering.
- I would like a FREE Federal Government Reference Guide/Magnet.

Russ Hiebert, MP
106A - 2429 152 Street
Surrey, BC
V4P 1N4



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