

# The Conversation

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## Hiebert family has expanded!



Above: The Hiebert Family, with newest addition, Marie.

Local Member of Parliament Russ Hiebert and his wife, Andrea, are proud to announce the birth of their second child, a girl Marie Sophia, born June 3rd, at 2:54pm.

Little Marie weighed in at 7 pounds 1 ounce and measured 19 3/4 inches.

Marie is doing very well and almost sleeping through the night. Kate, now three, adores her little sister.

Below: Russ, Marie, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Andrea.



## QUIZ

1. True or False: Canada is a constitutional monarchy.
2. In Canada, how many elected members are there in the House of Commons?
3. Name Canada's first transcontinental railway.
4. Name three of the four provinces that were brought together in the Dominion of Canada in 1867.
5. Freedom of religion, thought and belief are included in what Canadian Bill of Rights?

Answers on page 4.

## Economic Action Plan: Where are we now?



Prime Minister Stephen Harper discusses Canada's Economic Action Plan.

### Canada's Economic Action Plan at work

Now six months into the Government's 'Economic Action Plan,' a logical question would be, "How are things going?"

"The scope and speed with which the government has responded is impressive," says Russ Hiebert, Member of Parliament for South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale. "When you combine the \$33 billion in infrastructure funding with \$220 billion in reduced taxes since 2006, employment initiatives such as increasing access to EI and extending re-training and placement programs, and improved access to finance by keeping interest rates at all-time lows, you can start to see why Canada is recognized in the international community as one of the best countries in terms of surviving – and even prospering – during the economic downturn." With so many programs happening at the

**"...our government's plan is something to be proud of!"**  
- Russ Hiebert

same time, some have wondered what it means for the individual family or person. Hiebert agrees that more needs to be done to help individuals understand how they are being helped.

"Let's look at it this way," explained Hiebert, "Beverly earns \$35,000 and is a single parent of two children. In total, her personal income taxes have been cut by three-quarters, or \$1,216, and she receives an additional \$436 in child benefits, making her \$1,652 better off." "Or," said Hiebert, "let's look at Bob and Emily – who have two children. Bob earns \$45,000 and Emily earns \$85,000. In total, their personal income taxes have been cut by 10 per cent, providing \$1,938 in additional tax relief."

When asked how seniors benefit from the Conservative Action Plan, Hiebert said, "I'm proud of what we've done for seniors. In fact, if we look at John and Mildred, a retired couple living on John's \$40,000 pension. With the tax reductions of \$1,315, age credit reduction of \$300, and \$66 reduction in the basic personal amount, John and Mildred are ahead \$1,681."

Hiebert noted that anyone can find out how much they are benefitting from the Economic Action Plan by going to [www.budget.gc.ca/2009/mmi/calc-eng.html](http://www.budget.gc.ca/2009/mmi/calc-eng.html).

"Our government is working very hard to both protect Canadians from undue hardship

caused by the economic downturn and provide the framework for future prosperity," said Hiebert. "I think our government's plan is something to be proud of."

## Funding for Cloverdale Rodeo

The 2nd biggest rodeo in Canada just got bigger \$345,000 bigger, thanks to funding from the Government of Canada announced by Member of Parliament, Russ Hiebert.

"This announcement is exciting news to all involved in the Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair," said Mr. Hiebert. "The funding from the Marquee Tourism Events Program highlights our government's recognition of the real impact that this rodeo and fair has on our local economy."

The Marquee Tourism Events Program funding will make it possible for the Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair to build a new facility to house larger and more frequent attractions; to install a mobile stage to accommodate more acts during the festival; to develop new entertainment acts to target the fast-growing regional South Asian community; and to enhance marketing activities to attract visitors from across the western provinces and bordering U.S. states.

"The Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair is incredibly grateful for this funding," said Shannon Claypool, President and Publicity Chair of the Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Association.

Added Mr. Hiebert, "It is particularly exciting that this funding will facilitate greater involvement in the rodeo from our Indo-

**"This ... is exciting news to all involved in the Cloverdale Rodeo!"**  
- Russ Hiebert



Russ Hiebert presents a cheque for \$345,000 to Shannon Claypool, President of the Cloverdale Rodeo & Exhibition.

Canadian community?

The Marquee Tourism Events Program is one of several tourism-related programs announced in Canada's Economic Action Plan. These programs provide measures to support Canada's economy, stimulate the growth of tourism and contribute to the development of Canada's visitor economy over the long term. They include:

- \$150 million over two years for national parks and historic sites; and
- \$40 million over two years to the Canadian Tourism Commission for domestic and international marketing.

## Summer Barbecue with the Prime Minister



More than 1500 people came out to hear Prime Minister Stephen Harper speak at a BBQ in South Surrey.

Russ had the great honour of hosting the barbecue, introducing the Prime Minister and welcoming him to our community.

## Hiebert supports local artists



Russ with Mary Mikelson at the Festival of the Arts opening.

This July marked the 36th anniversary of the Festival of the Arts, and Russ Hiebert congratulated Mary Mikelson on another excellent year. The festival was started by Mary's husband Arnold, whose vision it was to celebrate the arts in our community.

Each year over 100 new and established local artists display their work.

For more information, go to [www.mindandmatterart.com](http://www.mindandmatterart.com).

## Grade 5 students know their stuff



Russ takes questions from some bright students.

Like an episode from the popular television show, 'Are you smarter than a 5th grader?' Russ Hiebert discovers that the students at Morgan Elementary were clearly well informed about Canadian politics, thanks to their teacher, Mr. Mulholland.

## New passport regulations as of June 1, 2009



NOTICE: June 1st of 2009 was the day the new passport regulations took effect. The United States now requires all passengers traveling to or transiting over the U. S. to have a passport or another secure document such as a NEXUS card or enhanced BC driver's license.

NEXUS cards are valid for five years and cost a total of \$50.

Visit <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/prog/nexus/menu-eng.html> to learn more.

## D-Day Commemoration



Russ Hiebert with Walter Uden, D-Day veteran.

While attending commemoration ceremonies on June 6, it was an honour for Member of Parliament Russ Hiebert to meet Walter Uden, White Rock resident for 37 years, who was on the beaches on D-Day (June 6, 1944) at the age of 21.

"It is important for us to remember those who served and appreciate the tremendous sacrifice they made," said Hiebert.

## Minister Peter Kent visits community



MP Russ Hiebert with Minister Peter Kent, and Jim Scott.

The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in the Americas, recently visited with Russ Hiebert and local constituents in South Surrey.

Since being appointed Minister of State by Prime Minister Harper, Peter Kent has been working hard on a number of important issues including expanding our trade with Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

# The Senate: Appointed or Elected?



**A statement by Hon. Bert Brown,  
Elected Senator (AB)**

Having spent over 26 years fighting for Senate reform and having had many frank discussions with Prime Minister Harper on the subject, I wish to clarify a few misconceptions about why Senate seats are being filled.

You will recall that Prime Minister Harper began his mandate by working for two years on reform of the Senate without making any patronage appointments. From 2006 to 2008 he gave the Provinces & Territories a time-limited opportunity to introduce legislation (or so called Senatorial Selection Acts) to elect their Senators democratically.

In 2008, I travelled on behalf of the Prime Minister to deliver that message personally to every Premier's office in every Province and Territory in Canada. This was

my third national trip related to Senate reform but my first on behalf of a Prime Minister who was serious about and committed to real reform.

Many of the Provinces and Territories were interested in our proposal and in bringing democratic choice to Canadians. Alberta already had legislation, Saskatchewan has now passed legislation, and Manitoba is on the verge of publishing the results of their Special Committee into holding elections in Manitoba. I was pleased to report back that many of the Provinces we spoke with were conditionally in favour of holding elections. Our work in this area is ongoing and I am in regular contact with Premiers offices.

When the Prime Minister appointed eighteen Senators last year, he did so for two main reasons. The first is the Senate had become dysfunctional as a result of the political imbalance in the chamber. With 58 Liberal Senators and only 20 Conservatives (that's close to three-to-one) the functions of the Senate and its various committees was becoming logistically impossible.

The second reason was the threat of the coalition. The notion that the opposition could have continued to stack the Senate with its own loyalists – pushing the ratio of Liberals to Conservatives to four-to-one was unacceptable, not to mention the prospect of having Separatists sitting in the Senate. If

the coalition had succeeded, we knew that the opposition would have quickly filled the existing vacancies.

It's important to point out that in a minority government scenario, the support of two opposition parties is required to pass legislation. The NDP is against any progressive reform of the Senate and wishes it abolished, the Bloc does not believe in reform, and the Liberals consider the Senate a place of sinecure and reward for their loyalists – in other words, the other parties do not support change. This is all to say that the Prime Minister simply cannot pass real reform measures through the House of Commons: he simply doesn't have the votes there to make it happen.

This brings me to my final, perhaps most important point. Within less than a year Canadians will finally see a Conservative majority in the Senate. This will be the first real opportunity, in over 140 years, for elected Senate legislation to be introduced in our Parliament and passed. Since all new Senators are required to support our reform measures, and with a majority who believe in and support real reform, we will finally have the votes to make it happen.

*P.S. You can expect interviews with our new Senators to appear this fall on [youtube.com/SenateReformTV](http://youtube.com/SenateReformTV)*

## Hiebert supports higher education



Russ Hiebert congratulates Sir John A. Macdonald award recipients: (L-R) Cameron Grant, Ryan Cho, Sandra Chen, Matthew Redekop, Amy Leson, and Nathan Rice. Not pictured: Stephanie Chicoine, Emily Skinner, and Rafiq Salehmohamed.

Fall is an exciting time of year for university and college students as they return to familiar campuses or launch their post-secondary journey. It can also be a time of anxiety as they contemplate paying for their education. Thankfully, a partnership between MP Russ Hiebert and the local electoral district association is making that job a little easier for nine local students.

"It was a great honour to attend high school graduation ceremonies throughout our community this spring, and to recognize nine outstanding young leaders in our community," said Mr. Hiebert. The Sir John A. Macdonald Leadership Award, which is funded by local donors, provides six schools with \$500 annual scholarships each. Some schools choose to divide the

scholarship into two \$250 scholarships.

"I am honoured to receive such a generous gift," said award recipient Stephanie Chicoine. "I am extremely thankful that you were able to recognize the hard work and dedication that I demonstrated at Earl Marriot Secondary."

Mr. Hiebert is proud to do his part in the riding, and quick to point to the billions of dollars the Conservative government is pouring into universities and colleges across Canada.

"The next generation of youth will have countless opportunities as many retirees leave the workforce, and they need a strong foundation of education to build their careers on,"

said Mr. Hiebert. "The government of Canada is committed to making education more affordable for students and making sure they have first class institutions to attend."

To this end, the Conservative government has put \$1.7 billion towards student financial assistance programs, most of which will cover Canada Student Grants for students from low- and middle-income families. A streamlined Canada Student Loans Program enables students to manage their loans online and a new Repayment Assistance Program alleviates the burden of debt for borrowers in low income brackets.

Across BC, the federal government has delivered \$159 million to upgrade and expand universities and colleges through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program. Locally, this includes over \$1 million for a library expansion and \$1.7 million for improved student services at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, \$2.6 million for an expansion of the library and science research facility at Trinity Western University, and \$10 million to expand Simon Fraser University's Surrey campus.

"We're not only investing in the future of our students with these exciting projects, we're also creating much-needed jobs to boost our local economy," said Mr. Hiebert. "It's a situation where everyone wins."

**"I am honoured to receive such a generous gift."**  
- scholarship recipient  
**Stephanie Chicoine**

# Conservatives fight crime



While the economy continues to grab headlines, many Canadians are still concerned about the safety of their streets.

"Fighting crime has been a top priority for me and our Government since we were elected in 2006," said local MP, Russ Hiebert.

Hiebert pointed out recent initiatives such as Bill C-15, proposed legislation to crack down on drug

crime and on the criminal gangs that profit from illegal drugs, and Bill C-26, which would end conditional sentences for serious property and violent crimes. The problem, Hiebert noted, was that these bills did not pass.

"When the Liberals in the Senate voted against this legislation—which

**"Liberals in the Senate voted against this legislation."**  
- Russ Hiebert

had been passed in the House of Commons—they once again showed Canadians that they are not as concerned about crime as most Canadians are," explained Hiebert.

Still, Hiebert and the Conservatives persevere.

"We're not going to let the Liberals' games get in the way of much needed legislation – we're

going to push forward with new legislation to protect our fellow Canadians," said Hiebert.

Just one example Hiebert pointed to are the measures the government has taken to strengthen the Sex Offender Registry.

**"Fighting crime has been a top priority for me and our Government since we were elected in 2006."**

- Russ Hiebert

"The current registry has been ineffective as a tool in fighting sex crimes," said Hiebert. "With the advice of police from across Canada,

we are making changes that will enhance the ability of law enforcement to monitor and apprehend sex offenders."



Russ Hiebert and Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan meet with local representatives to discuss legislation against gang violence.

Some of these changes include:

- Automatic inclusion of all convicted sex offenders in the Registry — as opposed to the current scheme where prosecutors must apply and a judge has discretion whether to include a convicted sex offender in the registry.

- Police will be empowered to use the Registry to prevent sexual offences, unlike now where they can only use the registry to investigate crimes after they are committed;

**"I'm proud of the work our Justice Minister is doing to strengthen the laws of our land, and making our streets safer."**  
- Russ Hiebert

- People who are convicted for offenses outside of Canada will be tracked more diligently, and will be included on the registry if they ever return to Canada.

"I'm proud of the work our Justice Minister is doing to strengthen the laws of our land, and making our streets safer," said Hiebert. "Since it seems the Liberals don't agree with this priority, I'm hoping Canadians will keep that in mind during the next election."

## Coffee with MP



Recently, Russ Hiebert hosted 'Coffee with your MP' events in Cloverdale, at The Wired Monk, and in South Surrey, at the IHOP, for constituents to come and share their concerns.

Russ appreciates the opportunity to listen to the comments and concerns of people in our community.

Call 604-542-9495 or email [info@RussHiebert.ca](mailto:info@RussHiebert.ca) for more info on upcoming events.

## Border opening



Russ with Peter van Loan, Minister of Public Safety, announce the opening of the new Douglas border crossing facility on Hwy 99.

## Free Fridge Magnet!

Federal Government Reference Guide

Contact Russ Hiebert's office to get your free fridge magnet:

• Call: 604-542-9495

• Email: [info@Russhiebert.ca](mailto:info@Russhiebert.ca)



## Let YOUR voice be heard

Russ Hiebert wants to know what you care about and what you think on important issues. He would appreciate your thoughts on the following brief questions:

1. Do you think the *Economic Action Plan* has stimulated the economy?  
 Yes  No
2. Are you concerned about strengthening Canada's *Criminal Code*?  
 Yes  No
3. Is reforming how Senators are appointed/elected important to you?  
 Very much  Somewhat  Not much  Not at all
4. Do you agree with the government's efforts to support higher education?  
 Very much  Somewhat  Not much  Not at all
5. In general, are Stephen Harper and the Conservative Government on the right track?  
 Yes  No
6. In general, is Russ Hiebert on the right track as your Member of Parliament?  
 Yes  No



Russ Hiebert listening to constituents at a recent open house.

To answer online, go to [www.RussHiebert.ca/listening](http://www.RussHiebert.ca/listening) - OR - cut out and mail back this piece, postage-free.

## Supporting local youth



Russ and daughter Kate, with the 2009 White Rock Ambassadors.

Russ takes a moment to pose for a photo with this year's White Rock Ambassadors at the Canada Day festivities near the Pier.

## Spirit of the Sea Festival



It was another perfect night for the Torchlight Parade in White Rock on the August long weekend. Russ was honoured to carry the prototype Olympic torch, in front of a great turnout again this year at the parade.

### QUIZ Answers:

1. True.
2. 308.
3. Canadian Pacific Railway.
4. Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick.
5. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



## Strengthening Our Economy, Protecting Our Streets

### A note from your local MP

Dear Neighbour,

The global economic recession has touched us all in different ways. Yet I'm pleased to report that while Canada is among the least affected by the downturn, your Conservative government is among those doing the most to help our country recover from it.

I want to update you on some of the ways that your Conservative government has been working for families like yours.

Right now, due to the global economic downturn, Canadians' top priority is the economy. It's our top priority too. That's why, in January, we introduced Canada's Economic Action Plan.

This is a plan to protect families, to create and protect jobs, and to bring Canada out of the global recession stronger than ever.

Our Plan is wide-reaching, prudent and includes help and support for families and workers across the country.

It includes tax cuts, such as increasing the amount that all Canadians can earn before having to pay federal income tax. It also includes the temporary Home Renovation Tax Credit, through which homeowners can claim back up to \$1,350 on home renovation expenses from eligible projects.

It includes helping the unemployed receive an additional 5 weeks of Employment Insurance; protecting more workers from layoffs by expanding work-sharing agreements; and helping more workers train for the jobs of tomorrow with additional EI benefits.

Our Plan also includes record investments in roads, bridges, water treatment facilities, community centres and other infrastructure.

In June, Prime Minister Stephen Harper informed Canadians that 80% of the Plan was already being implemented. By now, over 3,000 projects are already creating jobs and helping local economies in communities like yours across Canada.

**"...Canadians' top priority is the economy. It's our top priority too."**  
-Russ Hiebert

**"Your Conservative government is protecting families by continuing to crack down on crime."**  
-Russ Hiebert



Russ signing the rolls for the 40th Parliament.

In addition to protecting Canadians through a stronger economy, your Conservative government is protecting families by continuing to crack down on crime.

This year alone, we are protecting children with tougher legislation against drug dealers, cracking down on gang violence in our cities and urban centers, and helping local and national police forces put more police on our streets across Canada. However, there is more to do and we will continue to work towards safer streets for law-abiding Canadian families.

Our Conservative government is taking action to protect Canadians against the short-term economic challenges we face. At the same time we are working to make Canada stronger and safer in the long-term. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at my constituency office at 604-542-9495 or [info@RussHiebert.ca](mailto:info@RussHiebert.ca).

Sincerely,

*Russ Hiebert*

## ALERT: H1N1 Flu Virus

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHA) has much information about what you can do to prevent H1N1 as well as regular updates about the Flu Virus.

Go to [www.fightflu.ca](http://www.fightflu.ca) for helpful information, or, call the BC regional office of the PHA at (604) 666-2083.

## Canada Day in White Rock



Russ Hiebert, and daughter Kate, cut cake on Canada Day.

## Get a Free Flag!



The first 50 people to come into the MP office (address below) will receive a special 4"x6" paper Olympic torch relay flag.

In just a few months, the Olympic torch will be carried through more than 1000 communities and places of interest across Canada.

Show your support for the upcoming Vancouver 2010 Olympics by displaying an Olympic torch relay flag.

For more details regarding the torch relay, visit [www.Vancouver2010.com](http://www.Vancouver2010.com)

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