



NEWS UPDATE



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Dear Constituent,

This Parliament has passed its one-year anniversary, and despite the precarious minority situation, we have achieved some important goals. A budget has been passed that will allow the government to continue operating and Canadians to receive the many services they depend on. In addition, bills toughening child protection laws, and improving the national DNA data bank for the purposes of investigating and prosecuting crime, were also passed. We kept our promise to make this Parliament work.

Yet, as the Official Opposition, our Conservative party has lost confidence in the Liberals to govern the nation with integrity, accountability and with the best interests of taxpayers in mind. We opposed the Liberal-NDP Budget add-on which will cost Canadians another \$4.6 billion. We oppose the over \$25 billion in new and additional spending announced since the federal budget was introduced in March. This new spending will drive up taxes and debt.

And, we continue to demand greater accountability for wasteful programs such as the sponsorship program and the firearms registry.

Much work remains to be done in the areas of health care, the environment, child care, Canadian federalism, and immigration, among many others. We believe the Liberals have stumbled badly in these areas over the last twelve years. We have a plan for addressing these issues, including reducing waiting lines for surgery, a made-in-Canada environment policy, a child care program that meets the needs of all parents, a

renewed effort to address long-standing provincial grievances, and a crack-down on illegal immigration.

I look forward to tackling these problems with renewed vigour on your behalf when Parliament resumes after the summer break.

...the Liberals have stumbled badly in these areas over the last twelve years. We have a plan for addressing these issues...

Sincerely,

Russ

Russ Hiebert, MP



Russ greets members of the Cloverdale United Church at the 80th Anniversary of the denomination.



A young man receives an award from Russ at the opening day of the White Rock and South Surrey baseball association.



Russ shares about the role of Parliamentarians and how government works at an elementary school in Cloverdale.

In Parliament

Improving RRSP Options

All investors, including pensioners, have been restricted in where they can invest their registered retirement savings. Such restrictions have prevented some from putting their savings into worthwhile investments outside of Canada. As most people invest for the purpose of retirement, I introduced a Private Members Bill in October 2004 that would allow future and current retirees to invest more of their hard-earned savings outside Canada. Bill C-405 would eliminate the current 'Foreign Property Rule' which limits the foreign content of retirement investments to just 30% of a portfolio. A similar measure was included in the recently passed budget. The ability to invest up to 100% of retirement savings in a variety of nations has the potential to lower investment risk and improve rates of return, putting extra dollars in the hands of retirees. Whether these measures are included through my bill or through the budget, Canadians will now be able to benefit from increased choice in the marketplace.

Ethics in Ottawa

I am proud to be a participating member of the House of Commons Ethics Committee. I have made regular efforts in demanding accountability from Ethics Commissioner Bernard Shapiro. Mr. Shapiro has faced calls for his resignation over his bungling of the investigation of former Immigration Minister Judy Sgro. You may remember that Ms. Sgro and her staff were exposed as having traded temporary work visas for campaign donations and volunteers during last June's federal election.

Pension Fairness

In April, I supported and spoke in favour of Private Members Bill C-265, introduced by Ontario Conservative MP Jeff Watson. The bill would rectify an inequity caused by a 1995 change in the exclusion rate applied to US Social Security benefits collected by Canadian pensioners. The change basically imposed double taxation on those pensioners who had already paid income tax once on their pensions in the United States. When taxation limits return to pre-1995 levels, affected seniors will be able to return to the standard of living they expected when they moved here.

Border Security Report

As the founding co-chair of the all-party Border Caucus, I have regularly spoken about the need to improve border security. Fortunately, my work was given a boost when the Senate published a report detailing serious security lapses at Canadian border crossings. The Senate's findings echo my concerns about smuggling, the safety of Border Services officers, and the lack of technology, manpower and resources at border posts. I'll keep you updated as this issue progresses.

Canada Day....

My wife Andrea and I enjoyed a wonderful time celebrating our nation this Canada Day. We have so much to be thankful for. We have our cherished rights and freedoms, peaceful communities, a good economy, beautiful mountains and the ocean, and a great climate.

I was reminded we also have a great democratic heritage. Our province of British Columbia has been part of Canada for 134 years now. But BC wasn't forced into confederation. Neither was the decision made by politicians from the top-down.

Instead, leaders in the legislature, including Amor de Cosmos and John Robson, who became the first Premier of BC after confederation, asked the people to indicate through petitions what they wanted. Of the ten thousand that responded, some thought that joining Confederation was not necessary, and a small handful suggested becoming part of the United States. But the majority favoured joining the other former colonies back East in forming this new nation of Canada. It was a decision that the people of BC made for themselves.

Canada paid off our former colony's million dollar debt (which was a lot of money back then) and promised a new road and a railway stretching across the prairies and mountains to the Pacific, linking us from coast to coast. When one considers the vastness of the country and the rugged nature of the mountains, these were amazing accomplishments for the time. While that road is now paved, and that railway is electronically controlled, the original vision for an over-land link continues to serve our province well.

So when we celebrate the blessings of our Home and Native Land, let us remember the important contribution of the many who went before us, paving the way for us to be not only British Columbians, but Canadians; one country, strong and free.

Russ



*You can have your (cup) cake and eat it too!
Russ serving people of all ages at the Canada Day celebration in Cloverdale.*



Celebrating Canada! Russ serves Canada Day cake to celebrating Canadians in White Rock.

(Cut out the response piece below and send it postage free to let us know what matters to you.)

Feel free to make any additional comments on a separate piece of paper and attach it to this survey.

Please add me to your e-mail / mailing list

Your Return Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



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Fill out the other side, and mail it back postage-free!

In the Community ...

Year of the Veteran

Sixty years after the end of the Second World War, Canada is paying tribute to the sacrifices of so many young men and women by designating 2005 the Year of the Veteran.

The Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association will be holding a short memorial ceremony in our riding at 3 pm on August 6 at the Victory Memorial Park in South Surrey. Let us never forget the

sacrifice that was made, and continues to be made, by those in our armed forces.

Crescent Beach

Residents of the Crescent Beach area are well aware of a continuing problem with 'Swimmer's Itch' affecting much of the coastline. This skin irritation is caused by parasites that have infected mud snails living in the shallows. This problem has affected many area residents, as well as our local tourism industry.

In conjunction with the Crescent Beach home owners association, I have been working to find an appropriate resolution with the federal Department of Fisheries, which has the authority to determine what sort of mitigation will be permitted. I have also met personally with the Minister of Fisheries, Geoff Regan, on three occasions to press for a speedy resolution to the issue.

Poll Results: this is what you had to say ...

Auditor General			
- Should the AG's powers of investigation be expanded?	Yes	88%	No 8%
- Do you trust the Libs to restore ethics and accountability to gov't?	Yes	21%	No 73%
Fuel Tax Survey			
- Do you think that Russ Hiebert should continue to fight against new gas taxes?	Yes	89%	No 7%



*Lest
we
forget*

Kyoto	
- Which approach to Kyoto do you favour?	
Domestic reduction of airborne pollutants	82%
Purchase of foreign emissions credits	5%

Tax	
- Were you pleased with the tax cuts in the budget?	Yes 73% No 15%
- Are you concerned about the increases in program spending announced in this budget?	Yes 72% No 21%



White Rock Mayor Judy Forester, Senator Gerry St. Germain, and Russ join forces in cutting the ceremonial Canada Day cake in White Rock.

Senate	
- What do you think about Senate reform?	
Senate reform is necessary	88%
I'm not concerned about Senate reform	8%
- Do you believe BC should have the right to elect Senators?	Yes 87% No 6%

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

(When you're done, just clip and mail this section, postage free.)

1. Do you support a mandatory national registry and DNA sampling for criminals convicted of sexual and dangerous offences?

Yes, I support a mandatory registry.

No, I don't support a mandatory registry.

2. Raising the age of consent to sexual activity from 14 to 16 will better protect Canadian children. Do you agree or disagree?

I agree that the age of consent should be raised to 16.

The age of consent does not need to be raised.

3. Do you believe the criminal justice system is too soft on criminals?

No, retain the current policies.

Yes, impose minimum sentences and eliminate automatic statutory release.

Comments: _____

◆ **In general, is the Conservative Party on the right track?** Yes No