



STANDING UP FOR YOU!



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CONTENTS

<i>Dear Constituent</i>	1
<i>Federal Update</i>	2
<i>Past Survey Results</i>	3
<i>Safe Streets & Healthy Communities</i>	4

Dear Constituent,

The price of gas is frequently over \$1 a litre now, and at first glance there seems to be little that can be done to change that. The worldwide price of crude oil has taken off to high levels because of increased demand from growing economies like China's. Additionally, refinery problems in the United States, made much worse by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, have driven many refined fuels higher still.

High gas prices hurt family budgets and damage businesses, especially those that rely on transportation. Increased prices for home-heating oil and natural gas particularly hurt seniors on a fixed income. Yet, a third of the price of gas is taxes. The federal government takes the biggest bite with a 10 cent a litre excise tax. Furthermore, the federal Liberals charge GST on top of all the other costs and taxes, adding another 7 cents (when gas is around \$1 a litre at the pumps.)

However, Paul Martin's Finance Minister, Ralph Goodale, has rejected reducing gas taxes and his Environment Minister, Stephane Dion, even claims high gas prices are good for Canada. The Martin Liberals show by their words and actions that they simply don't care about Canadian businesses and families.

With prices so high, I believe it is just plain wrong for the federal government to be gouging consumers so much for gasoline. Families are having to forgo other priorities to keep their cars on the road. Truckers, airlines and other businesses that rely on transportation are suffering.

That is why Stephen Harper and I propose to cut back on federal taxation of gasoline. We think a good place to start is by eliminating the GST imposed on the other gas taxes. Double taxation is simply unfair. Moreover, the federal government needs to reduce its excise taxes. We believe that Ottawa could reduce the price of gas by at least 5 cents a litre right away, without damaging the government's finances.

Lastly, to encourage the use of public transit, we'll offer a significant tax credit to transit users to make taking the bus or train a viable option for more commuters.

I believe our proposal is solid and will benefit Canadians. But I would appreciate your feedback. Please use the form at the back to share your thoughts, or call or email me at the information to the left. I'm here to serve you.

- Russ

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Russ joined U.S. Ambassador David Wilkins at the Ambassador's Ottawa home for dinner in October.



Russ and Andrea Hiebert greet night time parade watchers at the Star of the Sea Parade in Laurie Carlson's '61 Convertible Chevrolet Impala.



Russ was joined by youth and experience as the South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale Conservative Softball team took on the best in the province at the first annual Conservative Party softball tournament held at Softball City on August 21.

Federal Update

Softwood Lumber Dispute

Canada-US relations appear to have reached a stalemate over the softwood lumber issue. Duties charged by the US on Canadian lumber have cost Canadians billions of dollars and thousands of jobs, particularly in BC. Despite important recent legal victories for Canada, the dispute is at a standstill. Prime Minister Paul Martin has even refused to call President George Bush. However, Conservative Leader Stephen Harper has proposed a special Canadian envoy to the US, and a new effort to seek markets for Canadian products to reduce Canadian reliance on the US.

Government Spending Way Up

The federal treasury was in the black again for the 2004 budget year. However, the surplus was a paltry \$1.6 billion compared to last year's \$9.1 billion. The surplus dropped because the federal Liberals went on a massive spending spree, racking up \$21 billion in new spending — a 15% increase over last year! The Canadian Taxpayer's Federation calls the spending binge "utterly irresponsible." A Conservative government would restrain government spending and offer weary taxpayers broad-based and meaningful tax relief.

Passport May Be Required For US Visits

A pending change to US regulations may require anyone entering the US, including US citizens, to have a passport. The change could severely damage the Canadian tourism industry as it discourages US travelers and also causes serious headaches for Canadians heading south. In his capacity as co-chairman of the Parliamentary Border Caucus, Russ Hiebert has written to the US Administration asking the Americans to examine alternative forms of secure ID, such as enhanced driver's licenses with biometrics.

Federal Funding For Our Community

Federal funding has been obtained for some important local projects going ahead this year. I am pleased with the following grants in our communities:

- \$450,000 for improvements to the White Rock Playhouse
- \$1 million towards the new Cloverdale Museum
- \$1 million for a 5,500 square foot addition to the Surrey YMCA

Crime	
- Are you concerned about the level of crime in our community?	Yes 86% No 11%
- Are you concerned about the federal Liberal plans to legalize narcotics and prostitution?	Yes 70% No 25%
Gov't Waste and Mismanagement	
- Are you concerned about government waste and mismanagement?	Yes 93% No 4%
Taxation	
- Do you feel that levels of taxation are:	
About right	12%
Too high	83%
Definition of Marriage	
Which of these two statements do you agree with more?	
- The federal government should pass a law to recognize same-sex marriages.	22%
- The federal government should pass a law to preserve the traditional definition of marriage	75%
Childcare	
Which of these two statements do you agree with more?	
- The federal government should establish a national daycare program	32%
- The federal government should put money directly in the hands of parents so they can make their own childcare choices	62%



Russ flips pancakes at the Elks' pancake breakfast at the White Rock Sea Festival.



Russ speaks before the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans' Association in August.

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

To receive the results of this survey please provide return address:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

- Please add me to your mailing list.
- I am interested in learning more about the Conservative Party.
- I am interested in volunteering.



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

Task Force on Safe Streets and Healthy Communities

Marijuana grow houses, car theft, street racing and gang violence are serious criminal justice problems affecting our region, yet remain unaddressed by the federal Liberal Government of Paul Martin.

This September, in recognition of these problems, Conservative Leader Stephen Harper appointed me as co-chair of the Conservative Party's Task Force on Safe Streets and Healthy Communities. I share the duties as chair with distinguished former Ontario Attorney General Jim Flaherty.

Having hosted round-table meetings in every region of the country, I have heard from victims of crime, front-line law enforcement officers, community workers and many others to seek out long-term solutions to these justice issues.

Several themes have surfaced repeatedly at these meetings, including dismay at the "toothlessness" of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, light or non-existent jail time for serious violent crimes, and lax immigration rules that allow criminals to exploit the system. In addition, illegal drugs were fingered as a common denominator in most crimes, while unstable family environments were identified as

the starting point for many career criminals.

I was particularly pleased to have Stephen Harper join me at a round table meeting the Task Force held in Whalley on September 9th. We heard first hand the problems our community is facing.

Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party have already committed to a strong criminal justice platform, including mandatory minimum sentences for serious crimes, more police on the streets, tighter security at the border, deporting non-Canadian residents convicted of serious crimes, and toughening the Youth Criminal Justice Act (formerly the Young Offenders Act.)

The Task Force hopes to take criminal justice reform a step further, developing a long-term strategy to deal with growing crime problems such as drug, gun, and gang-related violence. Safe homes, safe streets, and healthy communities in BC will become a top priority under a Conservative Government.

- Russ



Crime prevention advocates and Conservative Leader Stephen Harper watch on as Russ addresses the media at the Conservative Party Task Force Meeting in Whalley, Sept 9.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Just clip and mail this section, postage free.

Have high gas prices significantly affected your family or business?

Yes No

Do you support the Conservative proposal to reduce gas taxes immediately, by at least 5 cents a litre?

Yes No

Generally, are Russ Hiebert and the Conservatives on the right track?

Yes No

Share your thoughts:
