

# The Conversation

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## ON THE HILL

### Olympic athletes gain support



Above: Prospective Canadian Olympic Veronique Fortin is greeted by Russ Hiebert.

Member of Parliament Russ Hiebert recently welcomed Olympic athlete and torch bearing Veronique Fortin, a bobsled hopeful, to Ottawa. Noted Hiebert, "We should all be proud of our Olympians, and I'm looking forward to cheering them to Olympic victory!"

### Hiebert addresses House of Commons



Visit Russ's website at [www.rushiebert.ca](http://www.rushiebert.ca) to view or listen to his recent speeches.

### QUIZ - Electoral Firsts:

1. Who was the first female prime minister and which party did she belong to?
2. Which party had the first Métis-Canadian to be elected in the House of Commons?
3. Who appointed the first Aboriginal-Canadian senator?
4. Which party had the first African-Canadian elected to the House of Commons?
5. Who was the first Japanese-Canadian Member of Parliament?

Answers on page 4.

To learn more about firsts in Canada's Government, visit: [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca)



## The economy: is there a plan?



Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Member of Parliament Russ Hiebert and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty: leaders with a plan.

### Canada's Economic Action Plan at work

The global economic slowdown may not have affected the Lower Mainland of BC as much as other parts of Canada or the world, but unemployment has inched up and some businesses, including construction and forestry, have been impacted.

Canada's Federal Government has created an action plan to address the economic slowdown through a package of measures designed to stimulate the economy. The action plan is a combination of spending on infrastructure projects to create jobs, and

### Canada's Federal Government has created an action plan to stimulate the economy.

a range of tax reduction measures designed to leave more money in the hands of families and small business owners.

The Conservative Government is investing \$4 billion over two years through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. The new Fund will create thousands of needed jobs right now, repairing and improving roads, bridges, and rail links across the nation. BC will receive \$417 million for the Evergreen Line Transit Line. There is also \$80 million to modernize and expand border service facilities, including at Pacific Highway crossing.

The action plan also pumps funding into the construction and forestry sectors. The new renovation tax credit will provide up to \$1,350 per homeowner, which will benefit British Columbia homeowners by up to \$419.2 million over the next two years. And, the Federal Government is putting \$170 million into helping the forestry industry develop brand new products for export.

Tax reductions for families and businesses are a key component of the action plan. The Conservative Government has increased the basic personal amount, and is increasing the lowest tax brackets. The age amount for seniors increases by \$1000. A one income family with two children earning \$90,000 will save an additional \$426 in taxes in 2009.

## Gang violence: enough is enough

### The Conservative Government aims for "truth-in-sentencing" by seeking to eliminate 2-for-1 credit for time served

(Ottawa) – Increasing 'truth-in-sentencing' will help to deter crime local Member of Parliament Russ Hiebert told the House of Commons.

"For far too long, Canada has had a revolving door justice system," said the three-term MP. "Criminals are convicted of major crimes and it seems they are often back out on the streets before the ink is even dry on their conviction."

Hiebert was speaking in support of the Conservative Government's new anti-crime bill, C-25 which will eliminate the notorious '2-for-1' credit for time served in pre-trial custody and ensure greater truth in sentencing.

"This new law will do away with the two-for-one and even three-for-one credits judges have been granting for time already served," said Mr. Hiebert. "Now criminals will have to do the full time for the crimes they commit. Truth-in-sentencing will cause criminals to think twice about the consequences for their actions."

Mr. Hiebert noted the case of a Toronto man convicted of manslaughter in the death

**"For far too long, Canada has had a revolving door justice system"**  
- Russ Hiebert



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

of a baby. "This criminal was convicted and given a six and a half year sentence. However, because of the two-for-one credit system and the three years he has already spent behind bars, he will be on the streets within six months. This unacceptable situation is going to change with this new law," he said.

Mr. Hiebert was optimistic that the bill would receive the support of some of the opposition. "The opposition has indicated they are now willing to support this common sense criminal justice reform. It is just unfortunate it has taken a gang war on the streets of our community for them to realize that we need this type of legislation," Mr. Hiebert said.

## ON THE COAST

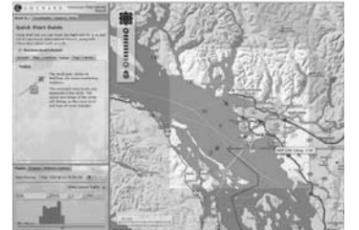
### New passport regulations effective June 1, 2009



Regulations for crossing the United States border changed on June 1, 2009. After this date, passports are required for all land, air and sea entry into the U.S. from Canada.

For more info, visit: [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/whti-ivho/](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/whti-ivho/)

### Victory on the NavCanada front



Thanks to the persistent lobbying of local MP Russ Hiebert, NavCanada has developed an online tool for local residents to track YVR flights, monitor noise levels, and submit complaints about specific flights directly to NavCanada.

This development is in direct response to the hard work of Russ Hiebert, who on behalf of his constituents, came up with the idea and demanded it be implemented.

The website can be found at <http://yvr.webtrak-lochard.com>

### Graduate scholarships support higher learning



Above: Russ Hiebert presents a scholarship to a local graduate.

The Conservative Government is investing in our future through the Canada Graduate Scholarship Program, to add 500 doctoral and 1000 masters-level scholarships. This \$87.5 million investment will help Canada develop, attract and retain the world's best researchers.

Visit [www.RussHiebert.ca/news](http://www.RussHiebert.ca/news) to learn more.

## Cross the Border with an Enhanced Driver's License



Above: Russ Hiebert holds up an enlarged sample of the new Enhanced Driver's License.

(Vancouver) – The federal and BC governments have now made enhanced driver's licenses available to all BC residents.

“Enhanced Driver's Licenses, which contain citizenship information, will be accepted at all US land and sea border crossing points, speeding the flow of traffic,” said Russ Hiebert.

The enhanced driver's license costs only \$35 more than the price of a regular driver's license, saving BC residents the \$87 cost of a passport.

Local residents can obtain enhanced driver's licenses at the ICBC Cloverdale Expressway, Cloverdale Square Mall, Unit 102 – at 17700 56th Avenue, or go to [www.icbc.com](http://www.icbc.com)

Visit [www.RussHiebert.ca/news](http://www.RussHiebert.ca/news) to learn more.

## Canada, BC Partnership completes border crossing improvements



Above: Local MP Russ Hiebert and Provincial Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon celebrate the completion of Highway 15 improvements.

(Cloverdale) - The Governments of Canada and British Columbia recently celebrated the completion of five vital improvements to the Lower Mainland's border crossings.

Visit [www.RussHiebert.ca/news](http://www.RussHiebert.ca/news) to learn more.

## Going green: expanding cycling network



Above: Russ Hiebert with Kevin Falcon, MLA, announce Cycling Network Expansion in Surrey.

(South Surrey) – Local MP Russ Hiebert recently announced a \$12.45 million dollar investment in the City of Surrey's Cycling Pathway Network.

“This funding will expand the network by over 13 kilometres,” said Hiebert, “including bicycle overpasses for Highways 1 and 99, plus a beautiful new bridge for pedestrians and cyclist crossing the North Creek.”

Visit [www.RussHiebert.ca/news](http://www.RussHiebert.ca/news) to learn more.

## Home Reno Tax Credit FAQ

### Who can claim the HRTC?

About 4.6 million families in Canada are expected to benefit from the credit. Eligibility for the HRTC will be family-based. Family members will be able to share the credit.

### How does the HRTC work?

Taxpayers can claim the HRTC when filing their 2009 tax return. The 15-per-cent credit may be claimed on the portion of eligible expenditures exceeding \$1,000, but not more than \$10,000, meaning that the maximum tax credit that can be received is \$1,350.

The credit can be claimed on eligible expenditures incurred on one or more of an individual's eligible dwellings. Properties eligible for the HRTC include houses, cottages and condominium units that are owned for personal use.

### What kinds of renovations are eligible?

Renovation costs for projects such as finishing a basement or re-modelling a kitchen will be eligible for the credit, along with associated expenses such as building permits, professional services, equipment rentals and incidental expenses.

Routine repairs and maintenance will not qualify for the credit. Nor will the cost of purchasing furniture, appliances, audio-visual electronics or construction equipment.

For more details, visit [www.budget.gc.ca/2009](http://www.budget.gc.ca/2009)

## New Home Renovation Tax Incentives

Renovators are looking to save big



Above: Russ trying out the tile saw at an on-site home reno. Also in this photo: Michael Gibson (Left) and Mike Knoblauch (Middle), members of Shell Busey's Referral Network.

## More money, faster



Above: Russ Hiebert presents a cheque for federal Gas Tax funds to Tom Prendergast, CEO of Translink.

### Federal Gas Tax Transfer Doubled and Accelerated

(Vancouver) - Following up on its commitment to increase and accelerate investment in Canada's economy, South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale Member of Parliament Russ Hiebert recently announced that not only would the federal gas tax transfer be doubled – from \$1 billion to \$2 billion – but that 50% of the money would be delivered three months ahead of schedule.

“We promised in our Economic Action Plan to stimulate the economy and this significant step delivers on that promise,” said Mr. Hiebert.

British Columbia's share of the federal program is \$254 million in 2009, an increase of \$127 million over 2008.

“I am proud to announce that TransLink will receive half of the

Gas Tax Transfer amount of nearly \$123 million, three months earlier than last year,” added Mr. Hiebert. “Our doubled investment in TransLink will help to create jobs, stimulate the economy and improve public transit in the Lower Mainland through the purchase of new buses and trolley cars.”

This latest announcement builds on the Conservative government's previous action of providing permanent Gas Tax Transfers. “The

Gas Tax Transfer is providing British Columbians with stable and permanent funding that will have a tangible impact on the quality of life in our communities,” said Mr. Hiebert.

The federal Gas Tax transferred to provinces and territories has

permanently doubled as of April 1, 2009, and the first payment has been accelerated by almost three months, making up to \$1 billion available to municipalities across Canada. In the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the municipalities have determined that federal Gas Tax Transfer funds will go directly to TransLink to improve GVRD public transit.

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Conservative government is building on the existing federal investment of \$33 billion in infrastructure with almost \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over the next two years. “Our government is proud to be working with provinces and territories to deliver stable, predictable funding for infrastructure, including the public transit that Canadians use and depend on every day,” said Mr. Hiebert.

# Greater mobility for local seniors



Above: Russ Hiebert tries out the new senior's bus.  
Below: Russ announces \$23,355 in funding for Seniors Bus Project with Nina Mackenzie (left) and White Rock council member, Mary-Wade Anderson (right).



## Seniors Bus Project a Go in White Rock

(White Rock) – Local Conservative MP Russ Hiebert announced that the White Rock Seniors Bus Project will go ahead with a federal grant.

“It’s a go! I’m excited that our government is supporting this worthy project for our local seniors. We want White Rock seniors to fully enjoy their golden years, but mobility is sometimes a challenge. This bus project will help

our seniors to get around our community more efficiently and safely,” said Mr. Hiebert.

The \$23,355 grant was made under the New Horizons for Seniors Program, a Conservative Government initiative designed to encourage worthy community projects that support seniors activities.

“The funding will support the Seniors Bus Project, which will en-

**“... our government is working hard to invest in our seniors.”**  
- Russ Hiebert

courage older adults in White Rock to be trained as volunteer bus drivers and activity guides for seniors in White Rock,” said Mr. Hiebert. “Our Government is funding similar projects here and in hundreds of other communities across the country.”

“Our government recognizes the crucial role our seniors play in our community. That is why, in our Economic Action Plan, the federal government made a clear commitment to protect Canadians, including seniors, in difficult times by implementing several key measures:

**“Our government recognizes the crucial role our seniors play in our community.”**  
- Russ Hiebert

- Increasing the Age Credit by \$1,000 for 2009 and beyond to allow eligible seniors to receive up to an additional \$150 in annual tax savings;

- Providing seniors with \$200 million in tax relief by reducing the required minimum withdrawal amount for 2008 from Registered Retirement Income Funds by 25 percent, in recognition of the impact of the deterioration in market conditions on retirement savings;

- Helping older workers and their families through these tough economic times by investing an additional \$60 million over three years in the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers and expanding the number of eligible communities to include older workers in small cities; and,

- Providing \$400 million over two years, through the Affordable Housing Initiative, for the construction of housing units for low-income seniors.

“Seniors have invested so much in Canada, and that’s why our government is working hard to invest in our seniors” said Mr. Hiebert.

## Transit Security Upgrade



Above: Russ Hiebert with Kevin Falcon, BC Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Premier Gordon Campbell, announce \$100 million in funding for Transit Security.

(Vancouver) – The security of B.C. commuters will be enhanced thanks to a \$100-million priority project funded by the federal and provincial governments, and by TransLink.

This project involves implementing controlled access gates (Faregates) and electronic fare cards (Smartcards) on the Lower Mainland’s transit system.

Construction of the Faregates-Smartcards Project is expected to begin in the spring of 2010.

“By providing real benefits to residents of this province through infrastructure projects such as this, our Government is further enhancing our already strong partnership with British Columbia,” said MP Hiebert. “Not only is the Government of Canada investing in security improvements but we are also helping to create jobs and boost our economy.”

In addition to contributing to the security of passengers, smartcards will generate ridership information that will give TransLink a significant advantage in future service planning, plus the ability in the longer term to structure fares to match the service being provided.

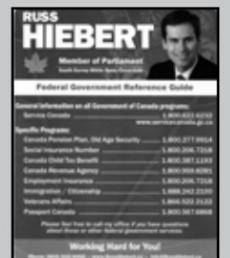
## Free Fridge Magnet!

Federal Government Reference Guide

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

• Call: 604-542-9495

• Email: info@Russhiebert.ca



## Let YOUR voice be heard

Your Member of Parliament is here to listen to you. Russ Hiebert wants to know what you care about and what you think on important issues.

If you have something to share with Russ, or you want to sign up to receive regular email updates from him, call him at 604-542-9495, email him at info@RussHiebert.ca, or visit his webpage at www.RussHiebert.ca

Also, Russ would appreciate your thoughts on the following brief questions:

1. Do you support with the tax cuts and stimulus spending the Conservative Government has provided in its Economic Action Plan?  
 Yes  No
2. Do you support the Conservative Government’s *Tough on Crime* legislation aimed at stopping violent offenders?  
 Yes  No
3. In general, is Stephen Harper and the Conservative Government on the right track?  
 Yes  No
4. In general, is Russ Hiebert on the right track as your Member of Parliament?  
 Yes  No



Above: Russ Hiebert listening to constituents at a recent open house.

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

## MP provides passport information session



Above: Russ hosts a passport clinic to assist constituents with passport applications.

Recently Russ Hiebert hosted a passport clinic, to assist constituents in the passport application process. Many people took advantage of this service.

## Why the new format?

Before:



After: **The Conversation**

A "conversation" is, by definition, the art of informing, listening, and responding. This new newspaper format is largely in response to the requests of constituents to make mailouts more of a forum for intellectual conversation between citizens and their federal representative.

Russ Hiebert wants to make the most of his communications opportunities to inform, listen to, and respond to you. Feel free to tell us what you think.

## QUIZ Answers:

- Kim Campbell; Conservative.
- The Conservative Party of Canada.



- Conservative Prime Minister John Diefenbaker.
- Conservative.
- Conservative Member of Parliament Bev Oda.

To learn more about the Canadian Government, past and present, visit: [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca)

# A note from your local MP

## Strengthening Our Economy, Protecting Our Streets

Dear Constituent,

So far, the year 2009 has been a year of challenges. The global economy has slowed impacting local businesses and employment, and a gang war has threatened the safety of our community.

Our government has taken action, making these two issues our top priorities. On the economic front we're pumping billions of dollars worth of stimulus into the economy through both tax cuts and spending on infrastructure.

Tax cuts mean more money in the pockets of families to spend in support of our local economy. Infrastructure projects provide high-paying construction jobs and create the roads, bridges and rail links we need to grow the economy into the future. A substantial amount of that infrastructure funding is coming to our area to improve roadways, rail links, border crossings and the new South Fraser Perimeter Road.

The massive size of our stimulus spending has helped Canada avoid much of the downturn other nations are experiencing.

Even so, our government recognizes that some sectors of the economy like manufacturing and forestry have been hard hit and we are taking action to help affected workers and these industries adjust.

While the slowdown has affected our region too, there are now encouraging signs that the economy may start to improve towards the end of this year.

Of course, the terrible violence we've seen on our streets in recent months concerns us all. The police are working hard to apprehend those responsible. However, our government recognizes that additional law enforcement tools are needed, including tougher sentences, and we have introduced four separate bills in Parliament aimed at cracking down on gun, gang and drug-related violence.

I know we're all relieved that the police have been able to lay charges in connection with some of the violence, and the number of shootings seems to have slowed in recent

**"The massive size of our stimulus spending has helped Canada avoid much of the downturn other nations are experiencing."**

-Russ Hiebert

**"I believe there is more work to be done in Parliament to create sentences that better reflect the seriousness of crimes committed. The safety of our children and our community demands it."**

-Russ Hiebert



Russ swearing in for the 40th Parliament.

weeks. Even so, I believe there is more work to be done in Parliament to create sentences that better reflect the seriousness of crimes committed. The safety of our children and our community demands it.

Despite the challenges posed by the economy and gang violence, politics continues as usual in Ottawa. For the second time since last October's election the opposition is threatening another election. Given the need to ensure that our infrastructure stimulus funds are quickly allotted to get shovels in the ground and that our crime bills are passed soon, I believe this would be a particularly poor time to force an election.

Though the year has offered its challenges so far, there is a great celebration to look forward to as we host the world in the coming months at the 2010 Winter Games. The organizers, thousands of volunteers, and of course our Canadian athletes will make us proud as the whole world watches this exciting event.

As your Member of Parliament I want to work hard to represent your concerns. I need to hear from you. You can always call, e-mail or write to me. I always appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

Sincerely,

*Russ Hiebert*

## Hiebert family to expand



Above: The Hiebert Family.

Russ, Andrea and Kate are eagerly awaiting a new addition to the Hiebert family. This will be Russ and Andrea's second child, and Kate's first sibling.

The arrival of the new Hiebert is expected at any time.

## Website adds new content

[www.RussHiebert.ca](http://www.RussHiebert.ca) has some exciting new content, including:

- A photo gallery.
- Multimedia: videos and audio recordings of Russ' speeches and interviews.
- Links to recent e-newsletter communication from Russ.

Additionally, Russ Hiebert is on Facebook. Become a supporter.

## Tell us your story and win a flag!



The "Proud to be Canadian" campaign challenges federal ridings to display Canadian flags. The riding with the most flags displayed on Canada day will be deemed the "Most Patriotic Riding."

Help South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale go for the gold this year by displaying a Canada flag. Last year the winning riding had over 25,000 flags displayed.

Come by the MP office to tell us how you will display your flag, and receive a 4x8" paper flag. Supplies are limited.

Cut here

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**106A - 2429 152 Street**  
**Surrey, BC**  
**V4P 1N4**



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