

The Conversation

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Olympic Torch comes to Cloverdale and White Rock



Above: Russ, daughter Kate, and MLA Kevin Falcon, join an Olympic torchbearer in Cloverdale.

Below: Russ and Mayor Catherine Ferguson share in the excitement of the Olympic Torch Relay in White Rock.



Recognizing Local Achievements



Russ hand delivers greetings on the occasion of Henry and Kathy Allinger's 75th Wedding Anniversary.

QUIZ

1. True or False: Canada is the second largest country in the world.

2. Name the two provinces that were brought together in the Dominion of Canada in 1870.

3. In what year did Nunavut become Canada's third territory?

4. Name the two bodies that make up Canada's Parliament.

5. True or False: Canada and the US share the world's longest undefended border.

Answers on page 4.



Federal Support for our Community



MP Russ Hiebert discusses renovations to the Kensington Prairie Heritage Building with Brian Dearborn, from B&B Contracting.

Stimulating our economy and getting Canadians back to work has been a priority for our government this past year. Our Economic Action Plan included funding for local infrastructure and job creation services. I am pleased that our community was able to benefit substantially from funding under many of our federal programs.

Here is a list of many of the local projects receiving federal funds over the past year:

- \$23,355 for the White Rock Seniors Bus Project;
- \$41,660 for upgrades at the Cloverdale Ice Arena and Curling Club;
- \$66,667 for the reconstruction of tennis courts at Greenaway Park;
- \$82,500 for the restoration of two Buildings at Kwomais Point Park;
- \$103,333 to upgrade field facilities and infrastructure at Peace Arch Elementary Park and Centennial Park;

- \$196,500 for renovations at the Kent Street Activity Center and the Centennial Park Leisure Centre and Arena;
- \$200,000 for the Kensington Prairie Heritage Building renovation;
- \$236,376 for Pacific Community Resources Society Youth Skills Link Program;
- \$345,000 to support the Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair;
- \$424,849 for the Sources Community Resource Centre for its Enhancing Literacy and Essential Skills project;
- \$430,070 for Promenade Park in White Rock;
- \$458,667 for the White Rock Museum & Archives Revitalization Project;
- \$493,600 for sidewalks in White Rock;
- \$1,080,530 for the Centre for Active Living in White Rock;
- \$1.25 million to install a cable barrier along Highway 99, from 80th Street to 24th Avenue;
- \$1.7 million to support the on-going operations of the Sources Community Resource Centre;
- \$3.58 million investment in the City of Surrey's Cycling Pathway Network; and,
- \$6.5 million for Highway 99 Rapid Bus Transit Line.

In addition to building the transport and sports infrastructure we need for the future of our community, these projects each employ workers at a time when finding employment is more of a challenge. I'm proud of what our Government has delivered to our community.

Criminal Justice Reform

Criminal justice reform remains a top-of-mind concern for many in our community. Last year saw an explosion of gang violence on the streets of our region. While it appears the police have been able to apprehend a good number of those responsible, there is still a need for tough new laws to deter such violence.

That is why we recently passed Bill C-14 which targets gangs and organized crime groups. Now, murders committed in a gang-related context are deemed first-degree murder and carry a life sentence, while a new criminal offence carrying a mandatory prison sentence has been created for drive-by shootings.

Another bill that has passed the House of Commons, but not the Senate yet, is Bill C-15 which cracks down on serious drug crimes such as trafficking and running large cannabis grow operations or crystal methamphetamine labs.

As we know, under the existing law, those who run grow houses or meth labs and are repeatedly convicted still serve little jail time. Under our proposed law such offenders would face mandatory prison sentences. This is long

"...criminals have been given 3-for-1 credit for time served...that was simply wrong..."



overdue.

We've also acted on another aspect of this issue — one that I hear a lot about. Often, courts will give convicted criminals extra time off their sentences for time served before and during their trial. Rather than simply acknowledging the time served, it is often multiplied, which can mean the criminal serves far less time.

In some cases, criminals have been given 3-for-1 credit for time served. That was simply wrong, and our government has taken action to stop it.

The new session of Parliament will see us address other aspects of criminal justice reform including youth justice reform, identity theft, auto theft and ensuring serious sentences for serious crimes.

Coffee with MP



Recently, Russ Hiebert hosted 'Coffee with your MP' events in South Surrey, at Moka House, and in Cloverdale, at Esquires Coffee House, for constituents to come and share their thoughts.

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 for more info on upcoming events.

Connecting with Community Groups



Russ discusses the economy, crime and local issues with local members of Probus.

Investing in our Youth



Russ announces federal Skills Link funding to support youth facing employment barriers develop life and job skills.

In Remembrance of Their Service



Russ lays a wreath on Remembrance Day at the cenotaph in White Rock.

Conservatives help you save on your 2009 tax bill

Dear Constituents,

Our Conservative Government is helping you pay less tax. Since first taking office in 2006, we have:

- **Reduced the overall tax burden** on Canadians to the lowest level in 50 years;
- **Successfully cut the GST** for all Canadians from 7% to 6% to 5%;
- **Lowered income taxes** at all levels;
- **Delivered targeted tax cuts** for families, seniors and business; and
- **Cut taxes** over 100 times.

Many Canadians still do not claim all they are entitled to because they are unaware of these important initiatives that our Conservative Government has introduced. In this guide, you will find information about the tax savings we are delivering for Canadian families and workers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281 or online at www.cra-arc.gc.ca for more information.

Sincerely,

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

Tax Savings for Canadians

Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) Public Transit Tax Credit

Canadians have many reasons to save for their future. From purchasing a new car, taking on a home renovation, or going on that dream vacation, the Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) can help all Canadians work towards their financial goals.

Our Conservative Government's TFSA is a flexible, registered savings account that allows Canadians to save for their future. Investment income, including capital gains, earned within the account is not taxed and withdrawals are tax free.

No matter what your income level, the TFSA can help you save money. Canadians who are 18 and older can contribute up to \$5,000 every year, with unused room being carried forward. Whether you're just starting out, or thinking about retirement, the TFSA is a great way to save money and keep your hard-earned dollars in your pocket.



Our Conservative Government believes that Canadians who choose public transit for work or recreation deserve extra help. By choosing public transit, you are making a choice that's good for your wallet and for the environment. Our Government is helping you save even more with the Public Transit Tax Credit.

The Public Transit Tax Credit allows Canadians to claim a non-refundable tax credit of 15% of the cost of their monthly or yearly public transit passes. This means that if you buy transit passes that cost \$85 per month, you could save over \$150 per year. That's like getting almost 2 months for free.

In addition to helping our environment and easing congestion on our roads, the Public Transit Tax Credit can help you see real savings on your tax bill this year.

Retain your receipts as proof of purchase – because whether you're going to work, taking your children to daycare, or heading to the movies, our Public Transit Tax Credit will make it more affordable to get you where you need to go while helping our environment at the same time.

leadership, sportsmanship and healthy lifestyles. Through the Children's Fitness Tax Credit, our Conservative Government is helping more parents enrol their kids in sports and fitness programs.

The Children's Fitness Tax Credit allows parents to claim a 15% tax credit on up to \$500 per child under 16 against the fees for programs like ballet, hockey and soccer.

Additionally, parents of children with disabilities can claim a credit on an additional \$500 per child, provided they meet the eligibility requirements.

Programs that help encourage our kids to be fit and stay active will pay off for their entire lives. With the Children's Fitness Tax Credit, our Conservative Government is helping Canadian families put their kids on the right track for the future.

Government has also created the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). Like the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), this action by our Government provides Canadian families a new option to save for the future.

We took this action on the recommendation of our Expert Panel on Financial Security for Children with Severe Disabilities.

Depending on family income, eligible families who contribute to an RDSP will have their contributions matched with government grants up to a maximum lifetime total of \$70,000 per beneficiary. As well, for low and moderate-income families, Canada Disability Savings Bonds will be provided up to a maximum of total of \$20,000 per beneficiary. Finally, the investment interest earned by an RDSP is tax-free as long as it remains in the account.

Our Conservative Government is taking real action to support families of children with disabilities.

The Child Disability Benefit & The Registered Disability Savings Program

Our Conservative Government is working hard to support families. Through measures like the Child Disability Benefit and the Registered Disability Savings Plan, we are taking action to help Canadian families facing unique challenges.

Since taking office in 2006, our Conservative Government has worked to help low and moderate-income families of children with disabilities by increasing the Child Disability Benefit. As well as increasing the value of the benefit that Canadian families can receive, we have also taken action to ensure that more families will be able to access the Child Disability Benefit.

Our Conservative

Universal Child Care Benefit

Being a parent is about making choices. Our Conservative Government believes that, when it comes to children, parents know best. That's why we created the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB). The UCCB provides families with \$100 per month for each child under the age of 6. That's \$1,200 per child, per year.

The UCCB allows parents to decide what is best for their kids. Rather than try to apply a 'one size fits all' approach, the UCCB lets parents choose. Whether that choice is daycare, staying with a relative or having Mom or Dad stay home, the decision rests with parents, as it should.

Our Conservative Government is working to give Canadian families real choice in child care.

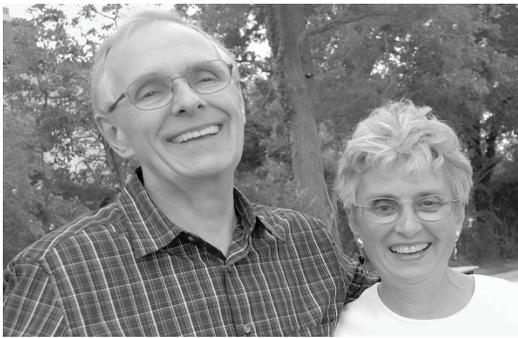
Tax Savings for Families



Children's Fitness Tax Credit

Our Conservative Government is taking action to help families make ends meet. At the same time, we are working to help parents teach their kids

Tax Savings for Seniors



Doubling the Pension Income Amount

Our seniors have worked hard and paid their dues. That's why our Conservative Government is delivering real tax savings for them.

But not only have seniors paid taxes, they have also saved for their retirement. Years ago, the Canadian government introduced a non-refundable pension income credit to apply to the first \$1,000 of eligible pension income. This measure had been left unchanged for almost 20 years. And a lot has changed in 20 years.

To provide greater tax support for those who have saved for their retirement, we increased the maximum amount of eligible pension income that could be claimed to \$2,000. This results in even more savings that will make a real difference for pensioners.

Increasing the Age Amount

Canadian seniors have worked hard to put aside money for their retirement throughout their working lives. When every dollar counts, an increase to the Age Amount in 2009 will help low and middle-income seniors keep more money in their own bank accounts.

The Age Amount helps seniors aged 65 and over claim up to \$6,408 in allowable income, saving seniors as much as \$961 on their taxes this year. Since taking office, our Conservative Government

increased this allowable amount by \$2,000, providing even more support to Canadian seniors.

To be eligible for the tax credit, seniors must have an income less than \$75,032 during the 2009 tax year. To benefit from the tax credit, seniors can ask their pension providers to reduce the amount they withhold for taxes. They can immediately reduce this amount of their monthly tax instalments or they can claim it on their income taxes at year end. Any unused portion of the tax credit can be transferred to a senior's spouse or partner.

After a lifetime of saving for their retirement, our Conservative Government is helping seniors hold onto more of their money.

Pension Income Splitting

Through our Tax Fairness Plan, our Conservative Government has introduced Pension Income Splitting to help ease the tax burden on Canadian pensioners.

Our current tax system generally has each individual Canadian paying taxes on their full income earned. Pension Income Splitting allows any Canadian resident who receives qualifying pension income to allocate to their spouse (or common-law partner) with whom they reside, up to one-half of that income. In doing so, a pensioner and their family can dramatically reduce their tax load.

With Pension Income Splitting, our Conservative Government is helping to keep more money in the pockets of retired Canadians.

Increasing the Age Limit for Converting RRSPs to RRIFs



Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP) provide one of the best opportunities for Canadians to save for the future. Because RRSP contributions are not taxable, they provide an ideal way to plan for retirement. However, some Canadians are held back by the way RRSPs are structured right now. Even though they choose to continue working past 69, they have been required to convert their RRSP into a Registered Retirement Income Fund

(RRIF) and begin making withdrawals.

Our Conservative Government is taking action for Canadians nearing retirement. We have increased the age limit for converting RRSPs to RRIFs from 69 to 71. Now, more Canadians will have the freedom to choose when they would like to convert their RRSPs. We are delivering tax savings and choice for Canadian seniors.

Tax Savings for Home-Buyers

First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit

Anyone who has purchased a home knows first-hand that the fees associated with the purchase can really add up. Saving up for a down payment is challenging, and costs like legal fees and land transfers can cost you plenty. To help Canadians with the costs associated with purchasing a home, our Conservative Government has introduced the First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit.

The First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit will allow Canadians to save up to \$750 in tax relief on qualifying homes purchased after January 27, 2009.

The First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit is also available to existing homeowners who are eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) who purchase a more accessible or functional home to better suit their needs, or for the benefit of a DTC-eligible person who is related to the individual purchasing the home.

A home is arguably the biggest purchase Canadians will make in their lifetime. Our Conservative Government is helping to make buying a home easier for first-time home buyers.

Home Buyers' Plan

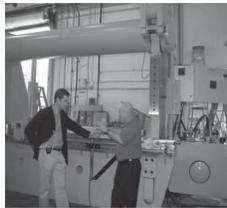
For many first-time home buyers or builders, saving for a down payment can be the most challenging part, especially during the global recession. To help Canadians afford their first big purchase, our Conservative Government has raised the amount Canadians can withdraw from their Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) for a down payment on their first home.

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, our Conservative Government is increasing the maximum Canadians can withdraw from the RRSP for a home purchase to \$25,000 with respect to withdrawals made after January 27, 2009. The amount must be repaid over a 15-year period, starting the second year of withdrawal. This is the first time the withdrawal limit has been increased since 1992.

Through these important actions, our Conservative Government is helping Canadians realize their dream of buying a new home.



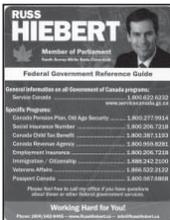
Supporting Local Businesses



Russ visits a local business and learns how heavy-duty press brake machinery is manufactured.

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

QUIZ Answers:

1. True.
2. Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.
3. 1999.
4. The appointed Senate, and the elected House of Commons.
5. True.



Strengthening Our Economy, Protecting Our Streets

A note from your local MP

Dear Neighbour,

2010 is off to a good start with the economy on the rebound, new jobs being created and a successful Winter Games that has reminded us of how proud we are to be Canadians and British Columbians.

Despite the good news, there are still hard decisions to be made in Ottawa over the coming months as we look for ways to trim spending and reduce our current deficit.

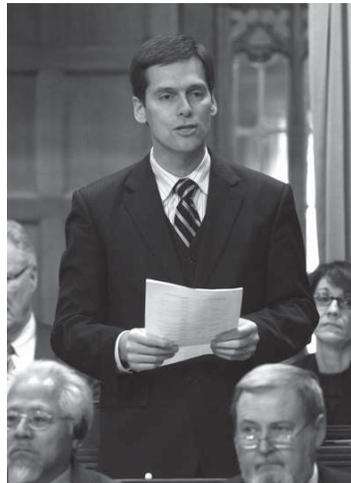
The March Budget re-affirmed our determination to complete the Economic Action Plan we started last year and continue stimulating the economy. However, the budget also lays out the need to reduce government spending and shrink the deficit substantially so that we are not saddled with new debt for years to come.

Just as Canadians manage their household finances responsibly, making sure their spending is in line with their income, I am confident that Canadians understand the need for the Federal Government to tighten its belt to address the realities of our national finances.

Whether it is finances, criminal justice or many other issues, representing the diverse needs and concerns of our rapidly growing community of well over 120,000 people has its challenges. One of the biggest challenges is to ensure that I hear from as many residents as possible on a wide range of issues, so that I can represent you well in Ottawa.

I want to hear from you, and that is why I strive to be accessible, even though my Parliamentary duties require me to be in Ottawa about one half of the weeks of the year.

Many people contact me directly with their concern or question. I receive about 10,000 phone calls, e-mails and letters each year, and I regularly meet in my office with groups and individuals who want to discuss their issues.



Parliament resumed in March with a Throne Speech and the 2010 Budget.

However, many others do not choose to write or call their MP unprompted so it is important for me to get out into the community and meet people face-to-face. That is why I regularly canvass constituents for their opinions in writing, and in-person at their doorsteps, and I hear from at least another 6000 residents of our community this way, annually.

I also attend and speak at a wide range of community events throughout the year. And, I regularly schedule public meetings, open house events at my office, and 'coffee-with-the-MP' functions, including recent 'coffees' on January 25 and 26 during which I met many constituents.

If you'd like to tell me what you think about a current issue, need help navigating the federal bureaucracy, or just have a question about something happening in Parliament, I would like to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Russ Hiebert

Listening to You



Russ, and daughter Kate, join local residents for lunch at the Kent Street Activity Center.

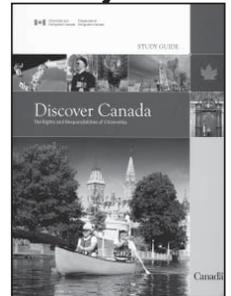
EI Benefits for Self-Employed

The Conservative Government has kept another election commitment by extending a range of Employment Insurance benefits to self-employed Canadians.

Self-employed Canadians are able to voluntarily opt into the program that came into effect February 1st.

For more information, go to www.RussHiebert.ca.

New Canadian Citizenship Study Guide



Citizenship and Immigration Canada released a new, more comprehensive study guide on November 12 that will help newcomers and Canadians better understand Canada.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca to download the study guide.

Cut here

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- Add me to your E-mail list, to receive regular E-mail updates from Russ.
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