

TED MENZIES, MP
Macleod

2010 is Canada's Year



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A Message from Ted

Dear Friends,

As the summer draws to a close, it's time to reflect on our accomplishments and set goals for the year ahead. Whether I'm working in Ottawa or Alberta, I'm overcome with cautious optimism that grows stronger every day. 2010 is shaping up to be Canada's year.

When it comes to economic leadership, Canada can teach the world a thing or two. Thanks to your Government's policies of paying down debt and reducing the tax burden on Canadians to its lowest point in 50 years, Canada was in a much stronger position than many other countries when we were confronted with the global economic recession.

In spite of our country's strong foundation, the recession brought real challenges for families and communities across Canada. Action was needed, so your Government introduced Canada's Economic Action Plan. Over 2 years, the Plan has helped families by lowering the tax burden and improving EI benefits and access to training. It's created jobs, and made our communities better places to live, work, and play by investing in roads, bridges, hockey arenas, colleges, and parks.

It's a plan that's working. Our fiscal record is the envy of the world, and it continues to improve. The Economist magazine recently called Canada an "economic star". The global accounting firm KPMG ranked Canada as the most competitive industrialized country for job creation. And both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) predict that Canada will lead the world in growth this year and next. According to the IMF, "Canada entered the global crisis in good shape, and the exit strategy appears less challenging."



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Breaking ground at the Sheep River Municipal Library in Turner Valley on June 30, 2010. The new building is receiving funding from the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, part of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, your Government is keeping taxes low, creating jobs for hard-working Canadian families, and leading the way on the world stage. When I reflect on our achievements, I look forward to returning to Ottawa this fall as we continue to build a stronger, better Canada.

On behalf of myself, Sandy, and my entire family, I hope that everyone in Macleod had a safe and peaceful summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "TM", written over a light grey circular background.


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Summer Legislative Update

I'm proud to report that spring was a busy time in Ottawa. The **Jobs and Economic Growth Budget** has committed \$19 billion in new federal stimulus under Year 2 of Canada's Economic Action Plan to **create and maintain jobs** and invest in Canada's long-term prosperity. As the economy recovers and Canadians get back to work, your Government will get Canada back to **balanced budgets** by winding down our temporary stimulus and keeping a lid on spending—not by raising taxes and slashing transfer payments for health and education. In addition to targeted action that is stimulating economic activity from coast to coast to coast, your Government is delivering on our commitments to **crack down on crime** and build a stronger Canada.

In the previous session of Parliament, we have introduced legislation to ensure safer streets and neighbourhoods for Canadian families. You can read about some of our most important initiatives on the next page. We're working hard to tackle crime, but the Opposition continues to delay our bills by playing political games.

To monitor the status our crime legislation in the House of Commons, please visit LEGISinfo, the Library of Parliament's online legislative research tool: www.parl.gc.ca/legisinfo.

As long as the Opposition stalls our crime legislation in Parliament, criminals remain eligible for house arrest for a long list of crimes, including aggravated assault, arson, extortion, human trafficking, luring a child, and street racing causing death. It's simple: your Government believes that you shouldn't serve time in your own house after burning down someone else's. Canadians deserve safer communities, and we're taking action to action to crack down on serious crime.



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Action on Crime

C-4	<i>Protecting the Public from Violent Young Offenders</i>	Keep violent and repeat young offenders off the streets while awaiting trial; seek adult sentences of youths convicted of murder.
C-16	<i>Ending House Arrest for Serious Crimes</i>	Eliminate the use of house arrest for serious crimes.
C-22	<i>Protecting Children from Online Sexual Exploitation</i>	Require Internet Service Providers to report child pornography-related offences to the police.
C-23	<i>Reforming the Criminal Records Act</i>	Replace pardons with stricter 'record suspensions'; extend the ineligibility period to 10 years for violent crimes.
C-30	<i>Enforcing Court Orders Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse</i>	Require individuals to provide bodily samples to verify compliance with court orders against drug and alcohol use.
C-31	<i>Eliminating Retirement Benefits for Convicted Offenders</i>	Terminate payment of OAS benefits to convicted offenders like Clifford Olson serving time
C-39	<i>Limiting Early Release and Increasing Offender Accountability</i>	Abolish Accelerate Parole Review (allows criminals convicted of 'non-violent offences' to obtain parole after serving 1/6 th of their sentence.



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Bill C-428

Bill C-428 (First Reading) is a Private Members' Bill to amend the *Old Age Security Act* introduced by Liberal MP Ruby Dhalla. **The bill proposes to reduce the Canadian residency requirement for Old Age Security (OAS) entitlement from 10 years to 3 years.** I have received hundreds of emails from my constituents who have expressed concerns about Bill C-428.

Currently, you must meet the following criteria to receive OAS:

- You must be 65 or older.
- You must live in Canada and be a Canadian citizen or legal resident at the time your pension is approved.
- You must have lived in Canada for at least 10 years after turning 18.

An individual can qualify for a full pension in 2 ways. Under **Category 1**, you must have lived in Canada for 40 years after turning 18. Under **Category 2**, you must have been 25 or older on July 1, 1977 and either: have resided in Canada; had some prior residence in Canada after age 18; or possess a valid Canadian Immigration Visa and have resided in Canada for 10 years immediately prior to approval of your application.

It is the final requirement of Category 2 that Bill C-428 is proposing to change. Instead of being required to reside in Canada for 10 years prior to approval of an OAS application, individuals would only be required to live in Canada for 3 years.

Bill C-428 must undergo several votes and be studied at Committee in order to become law.

I have heard the concerns of my constituents loud and clear. I will oppose Bill C-428, and I will continue working to ensure fairness for Canadian seniors.



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Hardest Working MP

In June, I was honoured to be selected by my colleagues as the Hardest Working MP at the Parliamentarian of the Year Awards.

The fourth annual survey asked all Members of Parliament to nominate the best MPs in seven categories. Over 70% responded, casting votes for Members both inside and outside their parties. The votes were converted to a points system to ensure that larger parties did not have an advantage.

I am incredibly fortunate to be supported by a dedicated team. Were it not for their tireless commitment to my constituents and my portfolio, I would not have received this honour.



From L-R: The Hon. John Baird, Kelly Block, M.P., Ted Menzies, M.P.

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