

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2007**

**STEPHEN HARPER IS WRONG TO  
LOCK OUT MPs, SAY LAYTON AND BEVINGTON**

**Northwest Territories/Timmins, ON – Prime Minister Stephen Harper is wrong to postpone MPs' return to work by proroguing the House of Commons until mid October, declared NDP Leader Jack Layton today.**

**"By his actions, Stephen Harper is effectively locking out MPs. We have work to do. Everyday families are counting on us, but Stephen Harper is preventing us from getting down to work," said Layton.**

**Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington is disappointed that 16 Bills before the House of Commons will now die on the order papers as a result of the postponement, including the Clean Air Act.**

**"Harper is wasting time on important files such as climate change and urgent infrastructure needs. The last sitting of the House was in June, and parliamentarians are supposed to be back on September 17," said Bevington. "All this work we have done has been a waste of time."**

**Layton wonders why Harper is stopping MPs from debating what to do with the budget surplus.**

**"The prime minister should be ashamed for shutting the doors of Parliament," said Layton.**

**"By locking MPs out, Stephen Harper is showing utter disregard for the work that has already been done, especially on the climate change and clean air bill. Stephen Harper is wasting another month while we could be fighting climate change in order to write an unnecessary Throne Speech," concluded Layton.**

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