

Standing up for Northerners

Dear Friend,

Being an effective Member of Parliament requires good communication with constituents. In a divided parliament, it also requires an ability to work with people going in different directions.

I'm proud to say that I have visited every community in the NWT as your Member of Parliament. I've attended First Nations assemblies and meetings of community leaders. I've participated in graduation ceremonies, attended municipal council meetings, met with non-governmental organizations, and I've paid respects on behalf of northerners at funerals.

On top of these public functions, I have also met privately with countless northerners, in my office and in their homes and communities, listening to their wants and their needs.

As a result of all this direct contact with the people of the north, I know that I have effectively represented the views and interests of the people of the Northwest Territories. After hearing first hand what is important to you, I know that I share the same dreams and aspirations.

Using the skills I developed from working with different groups in the north, I have been able to offer a fresh approach to politics, one that works toward constructive action between people of different persuasions. My colleagues have praised my skills at networking and working behind the scenes on behalf of the north.

As the NDP energy critic, and through diligent and effective work in committee, I played a central role in the rewrite of the *Clean Air Act*, greatly improving the Harper Conservatives' pathetic stab at environmental action. This bill was praised by everyone but the Conservatives.

Many individuals and organizations supported my lead to have the Northern Residents Tax Deduction increased. The Conservatives eventually were forced to start working on this necessary change. Much more change is needed to bring the cost of living under control.

My time as your voice in Ottawa has been both busy and rewarding. It was an honour to fight this fight on your behalf. I ask for the privilege to serve you again.

Dennis