

Dear friends,

All the very best for you in 2010. I look forward to the new year as a time for re-asserting Canada's values as a caring and thoughtful country in the world.

Canadian's outpouring of support for the tragedy of the Haitian people is a powerful signal to all politicians that this country has a strong heart and an ongoing desire to help those in need.

We saw at the end of 2009, that the Prime Minister decided without any real reason to prorogate Parliament. In fact it appears as he did it simply to avoid questions about the torture of Afgan war prisoners as well as the terrible performance of the Canadian government at the Copenhagen Summit. This should be unacceptable for a Prime Minister to block the lawful functioning of our democracy just for self protection. To stop this in the future, Jack Layton announced the NDP will introduce legislation to only allow prorogation with a majority vote in the House of Commons.

In the meantime I have started the New Year with a nine day community consultation trip in the Sahtu and Beaufort Delta. I will continue to work on a variety of constituency concerns in the NWT and issues in Ottawa under my critic areas of Transportation, Communities and Infrastructure. Our offices will be open to serve you.

Parliament will now start up on March 3rd.

We have had a rough time internationally lately with the performance of the Harper government over Copenhagen. This needs to change. We must create a made in Canada action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that can focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency. In the NWT right now our Territorial government is doing a lot to promote these green solutions, but we need to see the Government of Canada put more effort in this direction.

The new budget coming must not be like the last one, handing out money without a plan for the future.

The House of Commons Finance Committee held pre budget hearings in Yellowknife this fall. I hope what they heard there will be reflected in the budget. The North still needs help with our cost of living, and tax policy can help.

Dennis Bevington, MP NWT