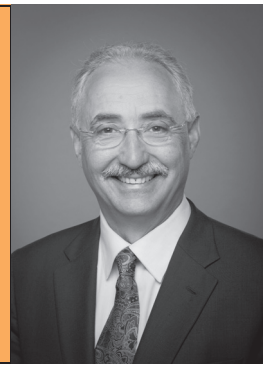


DENNIS BEVINGTON MP WESTERN ARCTIC



Community Newsletter Fall 2011

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide you with some of the issues that I have been working on in Parliament this fall session to date. From arctic sovereignty to economic development in the north, and security and safety for northerners, I have been vocal and able to represent your concerns on a national basis.

The fall session of Parliament has started off with a strong push by the Conservative majority government on its election promises, Bill C-10, Crime Bill, Bill C-19 Long Gun Registry abolition and Bill C-18, the demolition of the Canadian Wheat Board. They have shortened the time for debating these measures by invoking closure. This sets a very difficult and dangerous precedent for the upcoming four year term.

I have a great degree of difficulty with the Conservative's approach to crime as in Bill C-10. Their adherences to mandatory minimum sentences for many more crimes will not likely do anything but increase the cost of corrections services, much of which will be borne by the provinces and territories from already strained budgets. Conditional sentencing should be a continued tool of the Judges in our courts.

While I welcome the end of the National Long Gun Registry, I still believe that provinces, territories and aboriginal governments should have the ability to register firearms outside the criminal code if they so choose. I don't agree with the Conservative's on their desire to destroy the records for a province or territory if it wants to set up its own registry.

The slowing of the national economy as outlined by Mark Carney from the Bank of Canada late in October means that the government of Canada will not meet its budget goals this year. As a result, I am very concerned that more and more programs and services will be on the Conservative chopping block. We will have to be extra vigilant over the course of this next budget period to protect northern interests.

Please contact us through our Yellowknife or Ottawa office with any concerns you have on issues with the Federal Government. Your views are very important.

Thank you, Marci Cho, Quyanainni, Merci

INSIDE:

p. 2 Statement on the 2011 Federal Budget

p. 3 Statement on Airline Safety

p. 3 Question on the Canadian Northern Economic Agency

p. 3 Question on Arctic Sovereignty

p. 4 Congratulations to Northerners

p. 4 NDP Push for better living conditions for First Nations, Metis and Inuit



Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence winner Mrs. Sandra Ipana from Inuvik and Dennis in Ottawa on October 5, 2011, World Teacher's Day. Sandra is a Inuvialuktun immersion teacher at Sir Alexander Mackenzie School in Inuvik, NT. She has been teaching students her language and culture since 1991.



Member of Parliament Dennis Bevington and the newly elected Premier of the Northwest Territories Mr. Robert McLeod at the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife, NT on October 28, 2011. Photo: Josh Campbell

Member of Parliament Dennis Bevington address to the House of Commons on the 2011 Federal budget on October 6, 2011

“In March of this year, I had a private member's bill in front of the House. The government, a person, voted against raising the borrowing limit for my Government in the Northwest Territories to fund valued infrastructure projects in the Northwest Territories. Since then, the Minister of Finance has promised our finance minister over and over again that he would give us some answers on the borrowing limit so that we can invest in the north, make choices on infrastructure and support our economy at a time when the recession is hitting us.

The Mackenzie Valley Highway is a project that the whole north supports. Up and down the valley, aboriginal land claims organizations have taken a section of the highway, have done the preliminary estimates, have the material together and are ready to go, in the very near future, to environment assessment on the whole Mackenzie Valley Highway, a distance of some 1,200 kilometers from the southern part of the territory to Inuvik and then on to Tuktoyaktuk. It is a road that, over the next two decades, would open up, and I am not exaggerating, tens of billions of dollars of development that would impact all Canadians in a positive fashion.

We have a great made-in-Canada project where likely very little of what we spend on the project will escape Canada to other businesses in other countries. It will occur in Canada. It is a great project that will provide relief to many communities that do not now have roads up and down the Mackenzie Valley that have incredibly high costs of living and have isolated conditions that are really not appropriate in this day and age.

We have a great opportunity but we need to improve the fiscal capacity of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The federal government would not support my private member's bill in that regard. It stood up to a person against it. We need it and we need to understand the direction we would take with it. The government needs to come up with a better plan for investing in that highway.

In the May election, I was proud to see that my party, the New Democratic Party, had identified in our platform \$400 million over five years to invest in northern infrastructure, which is quite a bit more than the \$150 million that was put forward for the Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik road. That is the kind of investment that is needed from the federal government, as well as from the Government of the Northwest Territories.

We have a vision of what we want to accomplish in the Northwest Territories. Aboriginal treaty organizations up and down the valley are supporting this effort. It is time. This is a great opportunity for Canadians. It is a great opportunity to help our economy at time when we need stimulus in the economy.

We need to recognize what we can do in the next few years that will improve our economy, whether it is green jobs, which will return to us and make us a stronger and better society, or a project like the Mackenzie Valley Highway that is needed to serve the orderly development of very important resources. These are things that we should be investing in and talking about right now.

This is a time when we need plans and leadership. We need to understand how this country can avoid what is clearly a gathering storm of fiscal recession that will eventually fall onto the land of Canada. We need this kind of positive debate about the budget. It is a budget that, after four months, is not really accurate and does not provide all the answers, which is why we are standing here today.”



Aurora College students in Yellowknife (left to right): Joshua Gagnon, Cody Erasmus, Dennis and Lynn Rose Dologanak. Photo taken on October 10, 2011.



The cast of 'Arctic Air' with Dennis in Yellowknife, NT. Photo taken: September 23, 2011

MP Dennis Bevington makes a statement on the airline tragedies in the North in the House of Commons on October 6, 2011.

“Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, northerners were devastated by the fourth airplane crash in only weeks.

On Tuesday, an Air Tindi Cessna 208 crashed on a scheduled flight from Yellowknife to Lutsel k'e, killing the pilot and one passenger. This crash comes only days after the funerals for two pilots killed when an Arctic Sunwest Twin Otter crashed in Yellowknife's Old town, injuring seven others. The day after that crash, a single-engine Cessna crashed near Fort Simpson. Luckily the pilot walked away.

On August 12, a First Air 737 crashed near Resolute Bay killing 12 of the 15 on board. The crew of that aircraft was based in Yellowknife.

I am sure all members of the House will stand with me to extend their condolences to the families and friends of the victims of these crashes.

For northerners, flying is something they do all the time due to the isolation of our communities. They have no other choice. Understandably, they are concerned about the safety of northern aviation.

Last year, government officials promised to beef-up transport Canada's aviation safety inspection arm. My constituents want to know if the government has kept its promises.”

WE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

Citizenship and Immigration Issues

Passport Applications

Pension Issues

Canada Revenue Agency

Indian Residential School Related Information

VISA for International Travel

Referrals to Federal Government Departments and other Agencies

MP Dennis Bevington questions Canada’s role on Arctic Sovereignty in the House of Commons on October 6, 2011.

“Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago the U.S. government issued permits for Shell oil to release 250 metric tonnes of pollution in the Beaufort Sea, along the disputed territorial waters between Canada and the U.S. The so-called environmental standards developed by the Americans were clearly intended to apply to these Canadian waters. If we do not act now, we will be shut out of our own waters.

Has the government been involved in setting these environmental standards, or has it given up our Arctic waters and our Arctic sovereignty to the United States?”

Response from the Minister of Environment, John Baird;

“Mr. Speaker, we have ongoing discussions with our neighbors to the south on this and other issues that are important to the Arctic.

Obviously, this government will always stand up for Canadian sovereignty and fight for what is right. We have an incredibly important responsibility to ensure that our environment is protected and nowhere is that responsibility more important than in the Arctic, which has a very fragile ecosystem.”

Question on the Canadian Economic Development Agency in the House of Commons on October 6, 2011.

Dennis Bevington, MP Western Arctic:

“Mr. Speaker, since it was created two years ago, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency has broken almost every rule in the book: out of control costs, contract mismanagement, improper use of credit cards and travel expenses, and the list goes on and on. This appalling record should put the Conservatives to shame.

Since the Prime Minister refuses to take the advice of his minister and the department, especially on the location of the head office, will he now stand and take responsibility for the mismanagement of this agency?”

Response by the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Canadian Economic Development Agency on October 6, 2011.

“Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, this is a draft audit. It is an internal audit. We take all audits very seriously. Once I receive the final audit, I will review it and put action plans together to address the issues.”

no postage required

Dennis Bevington
MP Western Arctic
Room 239 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Congratulations Northerners!

MP Dennis Bevington praises fellow northerners in the House of Commons on September 20, 2011.

“Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate some NWT residents who have received national recognition this year.

Fort Smith *Slave River Journal* was awarded the best all-round newspaper from the Canadian Community Newspaper Association in its circulation category.

Dr. Curtis Brown from the South Slave Divisional Education Council was given the Canadian Association of School Administrators Award as the best school superintendent in Canada.

Sylvia Clement, a 29-year-old single mother of two, was awarded the Council of the Federation 2011 Literacy Award for her work.

Di Ann Blesse was the winner of the Canadian Teachers' Federation Outstanding Aboriginal Educator Award.

Paul Bennett, principal of Yellowknife's J.H. Sissons Schools, was chosen as one of Canada's 32 outstanding principals.

Buffalo Airways won two Gemini Awards for the reality show, *Ice Pilots*.

All over the vast NWT, our residents work hard to build our territory. The results are exceptional and these national awards recognize that.”

New Democrats push for better living conditions for First Nations, Métis and Inuit

New Democrats are calling on the Conservatives to stop dragging their feet after Canada's Auditor General highlighted the deplorable living conditions in our country's First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

In her last report, Auditor General Sheila Fraser discussed the “shocking” conditions in many Aboriginal communities and blasted the government for not doing enough to help.

In many communities, basic necessities like clean water, housing and good schools simply don't exist. Poverty and overcrowding are rampant.

Ms. Fraser said that conditions are getting even worse and called on the government to finally act.

New Democrats are concerned about this report and are ready to take action. In a country as rich as Canada, there is simply no excuse for ignoring so many of our communities.

That's why we are calling on the government to increase funding for Aboriginal education, invest in infrastructure like housing and drinking water facilities, and support economic opportunities for Aboriginal businesses.

New Democrats also know it's important to build new partnerships with Aboriginal communities—nation-to-nation—to heal past injustices and improve living conditions today.

Our party has always stood with Aboriginal communities across Canada. As the Official Opposition, we'll make sure their voices are heard.

THE YELLOWKNIFE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE HAS MOVED TO OUR NEW LOCATION AT 5014 FRANKLIN AVENUE NEXT TO HAIRADA ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE CIBC.

COME AND VISIT US ANYTIME BETWEEN 8:30 AM AND 4:30 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

YOU CAN CONTACT US BY PHONE 1-800-661-0802 OR IF YOU ARE IN YELLOWKNIFE CALL 867-873-6995

OR EMAIL: dennis.bevington.c1@parl.gc.ca

CHECK OUT MY WEBSITE: WWW.DENNISBEVINGTON.CA

Your thoughts are important, write to me with your comments:
