



Jack Layton and his wife Olivia Chow join Northerners Francois and Leslie Paulette during one of Jack's many visits to the North. The North and its peoples had a special place in Jack's heart.

# Dennis Bevington

Member of Parliament  
Western Arctic  
Fall 2011 Newsletter

## Remembering those who have left us

Getting ready for Parliament's return

Dear friends:

As we were preparing this newsletter, the first since the 2011 federal election, two terrible events occurred. The first was the crash of First Air flight 6560 in Resolute Bay, killing 12 of the 15 people on board. Many people in our communities and across Canada have felt losses from this tragedy. As the Premier of Nunavut Eva Ariak said, "We have such a connectedness in all of our communities. So our hearts and thoughts go out to all those affected throughout and especially those in Resolute."

Two days later Canadians were saddened by the death of a great Canadian and friend to Northerners, Official Opposition leader Jack Layton.

No doubt you will have seen much written on Jack's life and his impact on Canadian politics. I know we have lost a real

friend of Northern people. As critic for the North for five years under his leadership, I always felt that he respected our right to be in charge of our own destiny. Jack was always supportive of my efforts to bring national attention the issues and concerns of Northerners.

He took the time to visit the territories on a number of occasions. My wife Joan and I spent eight days with Jack and Olivia canoeing the Nahanni River, promoting the national park expansion in that area.

Jack was very strong on standing up for the rights of Aboriginal people across the country. He cared deeply about the environment and worked very hard to get this Conservative government to recognize the need to act more effectively on climate change.

Canadians have lost someone who has captured the our hearts with his courage and spirit. Jack leaves behind a strong party and movement that is dedicated to the same values that he so ably represented. This will be a time of challenge for New Democrats. We will at all times work for our constituents and the nation. The role of official opposition is an important and vital function of parliamentary government. With Prime Minister Harper's majority Conservative government and our huge federal deficit, as opposition, we will need to be very vigilant.

Your support, feedback and even criticism is always appreciated. This job is complex and our NWT issues are multifaceted. During the summer months I have spent much time visiting the regions of the North, attending meeting and assemblies, and talking to a great number of Northerners. I am always willing to listen and to work out a consensus on issues.



Dennis and his wife Joan visit with former NWT Commissioner Tony Whitford and Jean Gagnon during the visit of Prince William and Kate to Yellowknife.

Have a good fall and winter.

Thank you, Merci, Mahsi Cho and Quyanainni



Dennis at the "Wall of Food" event hosted by Katimavik Youth in Yellowknife in May, 2011. This event was to raise food and donations for the Yellowknife Food Bank.



Sahtu Elder Leon Modeste, Edmonton Strathcona MP Linda Duncan, Sahtu Elder Charlie Neyelle, with Dennis at the 41st Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence.

## New Democrats will put Canadians first

During this Parliament New Democrats will be focused on:

- **Improving frontline health care;**
- **Strengthening public pensions;**
- **Lowering your family bills; and**
- **Creating family-supporting jobs.**

At the same time, we'll work to hold Stephen Harper accountable and ensure that you have a strong voice in Ottawa—day in and day out.

## 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.

## New Democrats re-introduce landmark climate change bill

New Democrats have re-introduced a landmark climate change bill that would finally give Canada a respected plan to tackle global warming.

The *Climate Change Accountability Act* sets science-based targets to reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions and mandates regular reviews to ensure targets are on track.

If passed, it would be Canada's only credible climate change plan and would bring our country in line with what scientists say is needed to address the dangerous impact of global warming.

Of course, this isn't the first time New Democrats have introduced this bill. The same plan was passed by MPs last year and supported by a majority of Canadians. Then it was suddenly killed by unelected Conservatives Senators—without any debate.

For years, Stephen Harper's government has blocked attempts to get serious about global warming. He's made us an international pariah and put future generations at risk, all while letting big polluters off the hook.

New Democrats are committed to taking action against climate change and committed to getting results. After all, our children and grandchildren deserve fresh air and clean water.





Dennis welcomes Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner Chief Wilton Littlechild to the Northwest Territories. Chief Littlechild and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission held public hearings in the NWT during May and June.

## New Democrats want results on dangerous asbestos

New Democrats are calling on Stephen Harper's Conservatives to put lives before profits and support listing chrysotile asbestos as a toxic substance.

For years, Canada has been a leading exporter of asbestos to the developing world, where it is still used as building insulation. This is despite the fact that asbestos causes cancer and claims over 100,000 lives every year.

Adding asbestos to the UN's list of toxic substances would increase awareness of the mineral's dangers—and save lives.

Yet for years, the Conservatives – and the Liberals before them – refused, claiming that asbestos is safe, if used properly. And they've even gone as far as to block international efforts to put warning labels on it.

New reports have shown that the Government ignored its own experts, who warned as far back as 2006 that asbestos is not safe and should be included on the toxic goods list.

That's why New Democrats are calling on Mr. Harper to do the right thing and help list asbestos as a toxic substance. Canada has no place profiting off the sale of a dangerous product. Now it's up to the government to listen.

## Heading out on vacation, don't forget your passport!

Before you leave for a well-deserved vacation, make sure you've got a valid passport. As some destinations won't accept your valid passport if it is about to expire. Make sure everything is in order before you leave so your trip goes off without a hitch.

As your MP, I'm happy to help. Here's a quick run-down of what you'll need to get a new passport.

- **An application form — go to [www.passportcanada.gc.ca](http://www.passportcanada.gc.ca) to print one out;**
- **Two identical passport photos;**
- **The signature of a guarantor — someone with a valid**

**passport who you have known for at least two years;**

- **Proof of Canadian citizenship;**
- **Documents to support your identity — such as a driver's license or health card; and**
- **The fee — currently \$87.**

You can mail your completed package to Passport Canada or bring it to our office. Allow at least two weeks or more if you mail it.

Don't forget to check if you need a travel visa too.

For more information, go to [www.passportcanada.gc.ca](http://www.passportcanada.gc.ca).

Enjoy your travels!

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