

Dennis Bevington

Member of Parliament-Northwest Territories



Community Newsletter Summer 2014

Dear Constituents,

It's official! The name of the riding has been changed from Western Arctic to Northwest Territories. After going through a public consultation process in 2007, I first proposed the name change. It has taken the Conservative Government this long to grant unanimous consent for a Bill to provide this name change and others across Canada. We now join Nunavut and Yukon with the proper identification in the House of Commons.

Parliament has seen many pieces of legislation coming forward this spring, and most will be up for debate again when the House of Commons opens September 15th. These include S-5, a bill to create Naats'ihch'oh National Park Reserve in the Sahtu Region. There are many more bills that deal with Justice issues, like Bill C-36, which sets new rules for sex workers and S-4, the Digital Privacy Act.

One piece of legislation that the Conservative Government has said will be coming forward in the fall is an amendment to the NWT Act that would allow our Legislative Assembly to extend their term of office past the fixed date of Oct 4th 2015. This proposal was strongly debated in Yellowknife among our MLAs'. If you have an opinion on this matter, please send me an email or letter.

As we enjoy the northern summer, which all northerners look forward to so much, there are reminders all the time of our fragile ecosystem, which is subject to pressures from the changing climate. The fire season, made worse by the warmth and dry conditions is burning up the boreal forest once again.

With these conditions endangering our communities, hinterland assets and sacred sites, we are reminded of how much we depend on our brave men and women in Fire Management. Whether they are on the ground pulling hoses through the bush, in the air in water bombers and helicopters, organising fires and plotting firefighting strategy, we rely on them for protection from nature's forces.

Two areas of interest that I will continue to work on are the environment and a sustainable northern economy. As Official Opposition Critic for Northern Development, I recognise how important it is to build a northern economy that has the ability to avoid the boom and bust cycles of mining and petroleum extraction, and can bring down the cost of living for northerners.

As a member of the Standing Committee on the Environment, I see how many of our practises need to protect and enhance our living world, not simply exploit it.

Combining the two themes is so vital. By building stronger sustainable communities with active local economies geared to replace imported food and energy, we can make a difference.

If you are working on solutions in your community, please pass it on to myself, through emails, bevind@parl.gc.ca or Facebook, as you see fit.

Best Wishes.

Dennis



Gail Cyr, MP Dennis Bevington, Mayor Mark Heyck of Yellowknife and Tony Whitford on National Aboriginal Day on June 21 at Somba Ke park where people were treated to a fish fry courtesy of the North Slave Metis Alliance.



MP Dennis Bevington with Bea and Reg Campbell of Fort Smith. The Campbell's recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Let's end violence against women

Take a look around you and consider this shocking reality: *more than half the women you see will experience violence at some point in their lives.*

After decades of studies, recommendations and awareness campaigns, violence against women remains widespread. Tonight, thousands of Canadian women and children will sleep in shelters to escape domestic abuse. Hundreds more will be turned away because there's no room to take them in. It's time to act.

But instead of taking action, Stephen Harper is taking us backwards. His Conservatives have cut programs that women rely on. They've flatly refused to fund groups that advocate for women. And they've put women at greater risk by weakening gun safety measures designed to keep weapons out of dangerous hands.

Tom Mulcair's New Democrats know we can do better. That's why our Status of Women Critic—MP Niki Ashton—has proposed a practical, Canada-wide action plan to address violence against women. And by working together with provinces, territories and Indigenous communities, we *can* stop the violence.

Help make the plan a reality.

Here's what we can help you with

Are you running into problems with student loans or Employment Insurance? Or having trouble sponsoring a relative for immigration to Canada? As your Member of Parliament, I am here to serve you and your family. And my constituency office is open and ready to assist you with:

- citizenship and immigration applications;
- the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security;
- issues with taxes and the Canada Revenue Agency;
- Canada Student Loan applications;
- Employment Insurance benefits;
- Many other federal services.

Please give us a call at the Yellowknife constituency office at 1-800-661-0802 or 867-873-6995



The 44th Dene National Assembly was held in Fort Smith on June 16 to 20th. The theme of this year's meeting was 'Honour The Treaties: Dene Land'. Members of the RCMP led the march going to the Rec Centre in Fort Smith, following them are Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus and Chief Andrew Wanderingspirit of the Smith's Landing First Nation and Chief Freda Martselos of the Salt River First Nation.



Above: Commemoration ceremony for Treaty 8 was held in Fort Fitzgerald on June 17, 2014. Elder Francois Paulette making opening remarks at the start of the celebration.

Below: Chief Andrew Wanderingspirit of the Smith's Landing First Nations welcomes everyone to the place where Treaty 8 was signed in 1899, one hundred and fifteen years ago.



Above: Maglore Paulette, Bev Tupper and MLA Tom Beaulieu in Fort Fitzgerald at the commemoration ceremony on June 17, 2014. The community held a feast in honour of this celebration.



Above: Berna Martin of Dettah and Chipewyan language interpreter Bertha Catholique of Lutsel k'e at the Dene National Assembly held in Fort Smith.



Above: a canoe race competition was part of the activities held at the Yellowknife river on National Aboriginal Day on June 21.



MP Dennis Bevington was one of many who attended the event sponsored by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.



Far right: Brenda Michel was one of the winners in the duck plucking contest. The winner was Archie Liske of Dettah standing on her right.



Above: Bobbi Bouvier entertains the crowd gathered at Somba Ke Park in Yellowknife on National Aboriginal Day.



Left: Bill Enge, President of the North Slave Metis Alliance welcomes people to the annual fish fry held in Yellowknife on National Aboriginal Day on June 21.

Climate change action—now

Out-of-control climate change could threaten our way of life right here in Canada. So we owe it to future generations to take action now. If we don't, scientists say our grandkids could face very real threats like food insecurity, unfamiliar diseases, coastal flooding, and on and on.

Yet successive governments have refused to act. Under the Liberals, greenhouse gas emissions rose by 25% above 1990 levels—one of the worst records in the world. And the Conservatives are so out of touch that one of their ministers actually said: *"people aren't as worried as they were before about global warming."*

These views clearly don't represent the majority of Canadians.

New Democrats know that Canada can help lead the fight against climate change. That's why we've reintroduced Jack Layton's *Climate Change Accountability Act*—a practical plan with science-based targets to bring emissions down.

In 2010, Canada's elected minority Parliament actually *passed* Jack's bill. Unfortunately it did not get passed in the unelected Senate. Now, under Tom Mulcair's strong leadership, we're fighting to finish what Jack started—once and for all.

Are you a former Residential School student? Then this is something you may be interested in. Personal Credits for Education for Common Experience Payment recipients

Under the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, Common Experience Payment Recipients can receive up to \$3000 in Personal Credits. **These credits have no cash value** and they can only be used by individuals or group educational services. They can only be redeemed at approved educational entities and groups. The personal credits may be used for educational programs and services, including those provided by universities, colleges, trade or training schools.

It can also be used for cultural programming at recognized education entities such as Friendship centres, Cultural centres and First Nations schools. Common Experience recipients can use the Personal Credits themselves, or give part or all of their Personal Credits to family members; spouse, child, grandchild or sibling.

Personalized Acknowledgement Forms were mailed in January 2014. The deadline to submit the Acknowledgement Form is October 31, 2014. It is your choice if you choose not to use your Personal Credits. If this is the case, then you do not have to do anything.

For more information call the Personal Credits Help Desk 1-866-343-1858. You can also call our office in Ottawa at 1-866-992-4587.

New Elections Act changes affect how you vote

There have been important changes made to the Canada Elections Act, which may have an impact on how you vote in a federal election. Territorial and municipal elections are governed by the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* and the *Local Authorities Elections Act* respectively, while elections for Aboriginal governments are governed through laws specific to those governments.

Voter Identification:

Under the new Canada Elections Act there are three ways to prove your identity before you are allowed to vote in a federal election.

Option 1 Show one original piece of identification with your photo, name and address. It must be issued by a government agency. Examples of acceptable identification are a Driver's Licence, a Health Card (with photo and address) or an NWT General Identification Card.

Option 2 Show two original pieces of authorized identification. Both pieces must have your name and one must also have your address. Examples of acceptable identification are A Canadian Passport, a Certificate of Indian Status (Status Card), a Student ID Card, or a Birth Certificate. Examples of acceptable original documents with name and address are a Utility Bill (telephone, TV, public utilities commission, power, gas or water), a Bank/Credit Card Statement, an Attestation of Residence issued by the responsible authority of a First Nations band or a Vehicle Ownership/Insurance.

Option 3 Take an oath and have an elector who knows you vouch for you (both of you will be required to make a sworn statement). This person must have authorized identification and their name must appear on the list of electors in the same polling division as you. This person can only vouch for one person and the person who is vouched for cannot vouch for another elector.

Your Voter Information Card can no longer be used for identification.

Ways to Vote

Vote on Election Day; The date, hours and address of your Election day poll is available by calling 1-800-463-6868.

Vote at your advance poll; The dates and addresses of your Advance poll is available on your voter information card or by calling Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868.

To vote at your advance poll:

You must be registered to vote; if you aren't, you can register on line or register at your advance polling place, just before you vote.
You must prove your identity and home address

Vote at your local Elections Canada office; you can vote in person at your local Elections Canada office for most of the election period. After an election is called, Elections Canada sets up local offices in every riding in Canada. To vote at your local office, you must complete an *Application for Registration and Special Ballot*. Staff can help you with this form, if you'd like. You must show proof of your identity and home address. Once your special ballot application is accepted, staff will give you a special ballot voting kit. You can vote on the spot. Or, if you prefer, you can come back to the office to submit your vote later. After an election is called, the address and hours of your local Elections Canada office will be available on Elections Canada's website (www.elections.ca), on your Voter Information Card or by calling Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868.

Vote by mail; if you live in Canada, you must wait until *after* an election is called to apply to vote by mail. After an election is called:

Complete an *Application for Registration and Special Ballot*. This form is available at any local Elections Canada office or by calling Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868.

Send Elections Canada your completed form and proof of identity and home address. You can submit them by fax, by mail, or in person at any local Elections Canada office.

Once your application is accepted, you will be sent a special ballot voting kit by regular mail. (If you apply in person, staff will hand you the kit.) The kit explains how to mark your special ballot and mail it in.

You can also call our office toll free at 1 866 992 4587.



Above: Marlene Grooms and Terry Villeneuve at the Dene Assembly in Fort Smith.



Right: MP Dennis Bevington with a young girl on Canada Day in Fort Smith.



Left: Eileen Beaver is a Chipewyan language teacher at PWK high school in Fort Smith.