

NEWS AND VIEWS

Fall 2010

GARRY BREITKREUZ, M.P.
YORKTON-MELVILLE



Dear Constituent,

It has been a busy fall season and I am now spending my time in between the riding and Ottawa.

Our farmers have faced many challenges this year but there is some good news. Those who have been unable to access their granaries because of flooding will have more time to repay cash advances received under the 2009 Advanced Payment Program.

The safety of our law abiding families is still on the top of our agenda. We are continuing to work to keep criminals off of our streets and behind bars.

In recent news, an Ontario Superior Court Justice has struck down the laws regarding prostitution. I can assure you that the government will be appealing this ruling.

I was proud to be elected Chair of the parliamentary Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan. As Canada's military mission comes to an end, I look forward to discussing how Canada can otherwise contribute to the development of Afghanistan.

As always if you have any issues concerning federal matters, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

SUPPORTING CANADA'S VETERANS

Our Veterans are ordinary men and women who have done extraordinary things to protect our freedom and build a safer world in which to live.

As Remembrance Day approaches, the Government of Canada has reaffirmed its commitment to our Veterans and their families.

On September 19th, the Minister of Veterans Affairs announced \$2 billion in additional funding for our Veterans.

The government will increase financial support, through the New Veterans Charter, for seriously injured Veterans, and ensure ill and injured Veterans have an adequate monthly income.

We owe it to our Veterans, their families and our men and women serving today to remember their great achievements and their great sacrifices and to provide the support they deserve when they return home.

LONG-GUN REGISTRY SURVIVES VOTE

As you will know, I have spent 15 years and made over 550 access to information requests to uncover the true costs of the wasteful long gun registry. The registry does not improve public safety in a cost effective way.

It only targets law abiding citizens, front line police officers do not rely on the long gun registry data because to do so would put their lives in danger and laying a piece of paper beside a gun does not prevent crime.

However, above all this is the overwhelming cost. At a price tag of well over \$1 billion, only about one-third to one-half of the rifles and shotguns in Canada have been registered. A police chief in Saskatchewan has warned me that if we do not get rid of the long gun registry, it will cost at least another \$1 billion to register the rest of them.

Are Canadians willing to squander another \$1 billion to register the remaining firearms or would they rather spend the money targeting organized crime and real criminals that are threatening the peace in our communities

Parliamentary Office

Room 685, Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Phone: 613.992.4394
Fax: 613.992.8676
Email: breitg@parl.gc.ca



Constituency Office

19—1st Avenue
Yorkton, SK S3N 1J3
Toll Free: 1.800.667.6606
Phone: 306.782.3309
Fax: 306.786.7207
Email: breitg1@parl.gc.ca

www.garrybreitkreuz.com

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

Every day in Canada should be marked with respect and admiration for our senior citizens who have been so important in making our nation the wonderful place it is today.

Modern day seniors are a very diverse group who assume many different roles. They are remarkable business leaders, devoted mentors, energetic athletes and exemplary volunteers. In fact, seniors volunteer more hours on average than any other group in Canada.

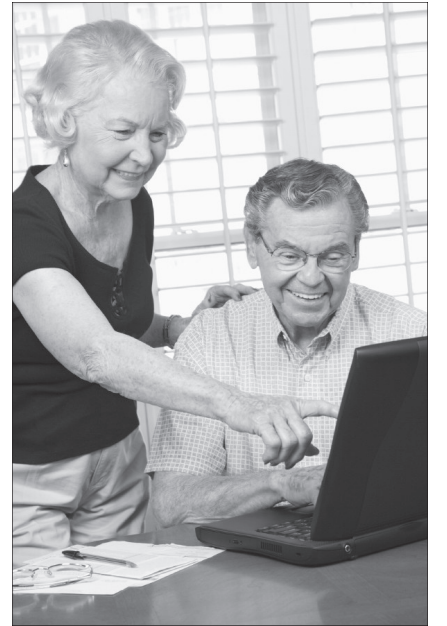
To show appreciation for our seniors and to ensure they have access to the quality of life they deserve, the federal government has introduced several cost-saving measures. These include pension income splitting, doubling the Pension Income Credit, increasing the age credit and reducing minimum Registered Retirement Income Fund withdrawals.

The government recognizes that there is still much to be done. We will continue to work hard to meet the needs of our seniors and develop sustainable ways to improve the quality of life for older Canadians.

Senior Citizens play a vital role in this country's future. It is imperative that we embrace the wisdom of previous generation and learn from their experiences.

IMPROVED GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS SUPPORTING SENIORS

- Allocation of \$400 million over two years in targeted funding for the construction of housing units for low-income seniors through the Affordable Housing Initiative (cost shared with the province)
- Improved access to EI Compassionate Care.
- Allocation of \$220 million over five years to the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers, which has assisted over 10,000 unemployed older workers through 200 projects.
- Investment of \$13 million over three years for the Federal Elder Abuse Initiative.
- Investment of an additional \$5 million per year in the New Horizons for Seniors Program, bringing the total budget to \$40 million per year.



PRIME MINISTER HARPER VISITS YORKTON-MELVILLE



In July, Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited Yorkton to see first hand the damage caused by extensive flooding in our region.

During the visit, the federal government along with the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba governments announced substantial relief for farmers dealing with income and production losses.

Farmers work hard through - out all conditions and circumstances to provide food for Canadians. Our government will continue to provide them with the support they need to run sustainable operations.

Left: Prime Minister Harper visiting a farm affected by flooding. Photo provided by the Office of the Prime Minister.

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

S-2 PROTECTING VICTIMS FROM SEX OFFENDERS BILL This legislation makes changes that allow police services to use the national sex offender registry to proactively prevent crime. It also requires sex offenders from other countries to comply with the terms of the sex offender registry and mandates a DNA sample from sex offenders.	S-3 TAX CONVENTIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT Implements the most recent tax treaties that Canada has entered into with Columbia, Greece and Turkey. Tax treaties help to avoid double taxation and assist with the prevention of tax evasion. Treaties such as these are often based on the model developed by the OECD.	C-4 YOUTH CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT AMENDMENTS The purpose of the Bill is to amend certain provisions of the <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i> to emphasize the importance of protecting society and to allow the detention of young offenders who reoffend or pose a threat to public safety.	C-5 INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF OFFENDERS ACT The proposed legislation amends the <i>International Transfer of Offenders Act</i> to enhance public safety and to alter the considerations the Minister of Public Safety may consider when deciding whether to consent to the transfer of a Canadian offender.
S-6 SERIOUS TIME FOR THE MOST SERIOUS CRIME This enactment amends the <i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> and repeals the “faint-hope” clause so those convicted of first or second degree murder will not be eligible to apply for or receive early parole.	S-9 AUTO THEFT AND TRAFFICKING IN PROPERTY OBTAINED BY CRIME Amends the <i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> to make it an offense to alter, destroy or remove a Vehicle Identification Number, to knowingly sell, give, transfer or deliver goods that have been acquired criminally and to possess property known to be obtained through crime.	C-14 FAIRNESS AT THE PUMPS The aim of the Bill is to provide greater protection for consumers from inaccurate measurements at the gas pumps and other measuring devices. It introduces monetary penalties for those found to be breaking the law. As well, it introduces mandatory inspection for pumps and other devices.	C-16 RESTRICTING CONDITIONAL SENTENCES BILL Amends the <i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> to end conditional sentencing (the ability to serve a criminal sentence in the community rather than a correctional facility) for those who are considered violent offenders.
C-21 SENTENCING FOR FRAUD The intent of the legislation is to help crack down on white collar crime and to increase justice for victims through measures that include a two year mandatory minimum sentence for fraud over \$1 million, new obligations for the judge to consider, and a new type of impact statement to consider when sentencing.	C-22 MANDATORY REPORTING OF INTERNET CHILD PORNOGRAPHY BY ISPs Bill C-22 is intended to fight Internet child pornography by requiring Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and others (e.g. Google, Hotmail and Facebook) to report any incidence of child pornography.	C-28 FIGHTING INTERNET AND WIRELESS SPAM BILL This legislation is meant to deter the most damaging and deceptive forms of spam, such as identity theft and spyware from occurring in Canada. It is a critical element in the development of a strategy for a strong Canadian digital economy.	C-29 SAFEGUARDING CANADIANS’ PERSONAL INFORMATION BILL Adds several new definitions to the <i>Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act</i> (PIPEDA). It also expands the coverage to PIPEDA to the personal information of applicants for employment within federal businesses.
C-31 ELIMINATING OLD AGE ENTITLEMENTS FOR PRISONERS BILL Bill C-31 will amend the <i>Old Age Security Act</i> and terminate payment of Old Age Security (OAS) benefits to prisoners. Implementation will begin with those who are incarcerated in federal penitentiaries for two years or more.	C-35 CROOKED IMMIGRATION CONSULTANTS BILL The <i>Cracking Down on Crooked Consultants Act</i> would strengthen the rules governing those who charge a fee for immigration advice, close immigration system loopholes exploited by crooked immigration consultants, and improve the regulation of immigration consultants.	C-36 CONSUMER PRODUCTS SAFETY BILL C-36 is designed to repeal and replace Part I of the <i>Hazardous Products Act</i> and create a new system to regulate consumer products that pose or may pose a danger to human health and safety.	C-37 CITIZENSHIP ACT AMENDMENTS BILL The amendments will streamline the process to take citizenship away from those who have acquired it fraudulently, including by the concealment of their war crimes. It would also take this decision-making away from politicians and give it to the court.

===== CUT HERE =====

HAVE YOUR SAY!

	YES	NO	UNDECIDED
1. Would you support Canada having a civilian and development mission in Afghanistan after our military efforts end in 2011?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you agree with the government’s pending legislation to end payment of Old Age Security to prisoners?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Should the Government of Canada appeal the court ruling that struck down Canada’s laws on prostitution?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you agree with the Government of Canada’s decision to cancel the long form census and replace it with a voluntary survey?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Should those who commit property and other serious crimes be allowed to serve their sentences in the comfort of their homes (conditional sentencing)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST

MORE TIME TO REPAY ADVANCES

Crop farmers who are unable to access their granaries in order to haul their product due to wet or flooded roads and fields now have more time to repay cash advances under the Advance Payment Program (APP).

A Stay of Default on the repayment of advances until January 31, 2011 is available for crop producers who have received a 2009 advance through the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA).

As well, durum farmers and certified organic farmers who did not have their product sold last year now have more time to repay cash advances under the Advance Payments Program (APP). A Stay of Default on the repayment of advances until April 30, 2011 is available for farmers of these commodities who received a 2009 advance through the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB).

The Stay of Default came into effect on October 1, 2010, and the extension will provide the time they need to meet their obligations under the program. Producers who took an advance in the 2009 crop year are facing the repayment of large cash advances creating significant cash-flow pressures.

The Stay will give farmers a bit of breathing room, allowing some time for the ground to freeze in order for them to access their storage bins and market their product.

Crop farmers who received a 2009 APP advance from the CCGA and the CWB and are adversely affected by the ongoing wet conditions are eligible for the Stay.

CHANGES TO CENSUS EXPLAINED

The Government of Canada has recently made the decision to replace the mandatory long form portion of the census with a voluntary survey. Information gathered in the long form census is valuable but we must strike a balance between collecting information and protecting personal privacy.

It is not appropriate to threaten Canadians into revealing private and personal information under the threat of jail, fines or both. It is absurd that anyone not willing to disclose information as to whether their home needs repairs or what time they leave for work should be threatened with jail time.

The changes simply end the penalties associated with non-completion of the long form census. All the information available previously will still be available after this change.

This approach is a better balance between collecting necessary data and protecting the privacy rights of Canadians. The data that had been collected under the old mandatory long form census will now be collected through the new, voluntary National Household Survey. Research indicates that data collected under threat of penalty was not as accurate as that collected voluntarily. People are more likely to tell the truth when they are not forced to fill out the forms.

No responsible government can demand that their citizens share private information under threats of jail time and fines.

Combining a mandatory short-form census with a voluntary long-form survey, achieves an appropriate balance between the need for data to inform public policy research, while respecting the privacy of Canadians.

PROSTITUTION TO BECOME LEGAL?

In September 2010, Justice Susan Himel of the Ontario Superior Court ruled in favour of three sex trade workers who argued that the laws surrounding prostitution put their lives at risk. This struck down three federal prostitution laws as unconstitutional.

The Government of Canada has expressed concern about the Superior Court’s decision and is appealing this ruling.

By overturning the laws, women who are under control of pimps become further victimized. Some of the most exploitative and harmful practices happen because of pimps who have, through this ruling, become legitimate business people.

As well, sex trafficking and prostitution are linked. Studies show that where prostitution is legalized there is a significant increase in the expansion of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The Government of Canada is committed to the health and safety of all Canadians and the well-being of our communities. We will fight to ensure that the criminal law continues to address the significant harms that flow from prostitution to both communities and the prostitutes themselves, along with

BREITKREUZ TO CHAIR COMMITTEE

BREITKREUZ ELECTED AS CHAIR OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CANADIAN MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

On October 6, 2010, I was elected as the Chair of the House of Commons Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan.

In March 2008, a motion was passed in the House of Commons which mandated the formation of a special parliamentary committee on Canada’s military role in Afghanistan.

- The purpose of this committee is to:
- a. meet regularly with ministers and senior officials;
 - b. make recommendations on the conduct and progress of our efforts in Afghanistan; and
 - c. to ensure that Canadians are being provided with ample information on the conduct and progress of the mission.

Canada has had a large military role in Afghanistan and that role will be coming to an end in July 2011. I look forward to working with my colleagues as we discuss the issues facing Canada’s mission in Afghanistan.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / TOWN

PROVINCE POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE EMAIL

NO
POSTAGE
REQUIRED

Garry Breitkreuz, M.P.
Room 685, Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6