

JOHN BAIRD

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



Getting Things Done

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COMMUNITY UPDATE: THIS WEEK

Thank you to all who stopped by my Carlingwood Shopping Centre Community Booth day this past Saturday. The response was terrific—many new and familiar faces. I regularly host community booths in local malls as they allow me to meet with and speak with constituents on a variety of community related topics. Stay tuned for the date of my next booth.

OCRI Roundtable

This morning, I had the pleasure of attending the OCRI Community Roundtable on Technology in Ottawa. The event was attended by technology leaders in Ottawa, Algonquin College, Carleton University, the University of Ottawa, La Cite Collegial and other local politicians.

Army Run

We had great weather this year for the 2009 Army Run—the fastest growing run in Canada. There two significant success stories:

- Orillia-based Rick Ball broke a world record for the single-leg amputee half marathon, with a time of 1:20:44.9 (the previous record was 1:21:46); and
- Master Corporal Jody Mitic, who lost both legs in a landmine accident two-and-a-half years ago and who has been followed extensively by the media in recent weeks, successfully completed his first-ever half marathon. **from Armyrun.ca*



La Vendemmia—Preston Street Grape Stomp for Cancer Research

ATV personality Bill Welychka and I tried to stomp-out cancer in the Ottawa area at Preston Street's annual La Vendemmia Grape Stomp. With over 36 teams, there were hundreds participating in this Italian tradition of stomping grapes to make wine.

Proceeds went to the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation to support cancer research right here in our city.



Remembering the Battle of Britain at the Westboro Cenotaph

I had the honour of laying a wreath with Westboro Branch 480 President Colleen Foley.



Indo-Canada Ottawa Business Chamber Annual Awards of Excellence Gala

A terrific evening all-around. Great local talent recognized, great keynote speech by CNN's Chief Business Correspondent Ali Velshi, and great food!



Arthritis Society Annual Walk in Vincent Massey Park

I was particularly honoured to meet with the participants wearing blue t-shirts that symbolized a personal struggle with Arthritis. Congratulations to all participants!

PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE:

Given the recent political climate and election talk from the Official Opposition, I thought it would be fitting to share a piece that I co-authored with our Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty, and our Industry Minister, Tony Clement, which was released nation-wide this week.

After the sharpest global recession since the Second World War, there are encouraging signs Canada is returning to economic growth. Consumer confidence is growing and our economic recovery is forecast to be amongst the strongest in the G-7 major industrialized countries.

However, many Canadian communities, businesses and workers continue to be seriously affected by the downturn. Recovery is fragile. That is why it is so important for the Government to stay on course and focus its efforts on delivering Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Thankfully, Canada had by far the best fiscal position among G-7 nations going into the current crisis, with a substantial record of debt reduction. The World Economic Forum expects Canada as one of only two developed nations to emerge from the global economic recession even more competitive; a testament to the successful implementation of our stimulus package.

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Our government's number one priority is the Canadian economy. Our Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, and all members of the government have been delivering that message both here at home, and on the international stage at forums like the recent G-20 Leaders' Summit in Pittsburgh.

If we are going to put the global recession behind us and capitalize on Canada's strong position going forward, our focus on the economy must not waver. Now more than ever as a government, as a country, we must stay focused. We must stay on course.

Canada's Economic Action Plan is working. It is stimulating the economy where and when it is most needed, and will help to create or maintain an estimated 220,000 Canadian jobs by the end of 2010.

The Action Plan is reducing the tax burden on Canadian families and businesses. It brought forward significant permanent personal income tax relief, and is bringing Canada closer to having the most competitive overall tax rate on new business investment among industrialized countries.

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government is delivering targeted help to Canadians who are currently out of work, while providing skills training to help them prepare for the jobs of the future.

The Plan is creating jobs through investment in modern green infrastructure and affordable housing.

Canada's Economic Action Plan is building the foundations for a brighter economic future, with investments in infrastructure at colleges, universities, federal laboratories and research facilities. Graduate students and interns are getting an extra boost in support, and funding for research and development, including clean energy technologies, is being expanded too.

For the industries and communities hit hardest by the recession, the Plan is taking special steps to protect jobs.

The Plan ensures that our financial system, already recognized as among the strongest in the world, remains stable. It improves access to credit and financing, so that businesses can invest, grow and create jobs, and families can get loans for things like a new car or home.

Thanks to the Home Renovation Tax Credit, thousands of Canadian families are investing in their most significant assets – their homes – while putting tradespeople to work and giving a boost to building and renovation businesses across the country.

In just over 100 days, Canada's Economic Action Plan is already protecting Canadians, stimulating our economy and creating jobs from coast to coast to coast. Our Third Report to Canadians on implementation of the Plan shows that ninety per cent of the funding for this fiscal year is now committed. Commitments are now in place for more than 7,500 infrastructure and housing projects, and more than 4,000 of these have begun.

Canada's efforts are having a positive effect. We are seeing stabilization and the early beginnings of a recovery. Employment is stabilizing. Canada's unemployment rate today is a full point lower than it is in the United States.

But we are not out of the woods yet. Far too many Canadians are still out of work. Too many families are suffering hardship. And just as Canada was dragged into the global recession through no fault of our own, our recovery could be derailed by events beyond our borders.

That is why it is crucial that we continue to implement our Economic Action Plan, and that we continue to stay the course.

JOHN BAIRD

Canada's Transport and
Infrastructure Minister

JIM FLAHERTY

Canada's Finance
Minister

TONY CLEMENT

Canada's Industry
Minister

LOOKING AHEAD

- "An Evening With Yo-Yo Ma" at the National Art Centre with Mrs. Laureen Harper
- Parliament in session
- Thanksgiving weekend

CAN I HELP YOU?

Do you have a question or issue that you think I can help you with? Please give my constituency office a call at **613-990-7720**, or visit my online office at www.johnbaird.com

Canada-Bangladesh Muslim community gathers

I was pleased to be a guest speaker at the Canada-Bangladesh Muslim Community Iftar Mahfil, held at the Ukrainian Banquet Hall.

