



UPFRONT

with **Mike Wallace, MP**

A Publication of Mike Wallace, Member of Parliament for Burlington

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Safe Streets and Communities Act

One of the key commitments the Conservatives made during the spring election campaign was to follow through on crime legislation. We have moved forward with this commitment. The Government recently introduced the Safe Streets and Communities Act, a comprehensive bill that will target crime, terrorism and provide support and protection to victims of crime. By moving quickly to reintroduce this law-and-order legislation, we are fulfilling our commitment to take action to protect families and hold criminals accountable.

In my view, I believe Burlington residents want and deserve to be able to feel safe in their homes and in our community. Part of this solution means that criminals need to be off our streets. This legislation is committed to ensuring that serious and repeat criminals are held fully accountable for their actions and that the safety and security of law-abiding citizens and victims comes first in Canada's justice system. The Government will continue to fight crime and protect Canadians so that our communities are safe for people to live, raise their families and do business.

The Safe Streets and Communities Act re-introduces the following reforms which were separate bills, debated by Parliament during the previous session but never became law:

The Protecting Children from Sexual Predators Act (former Bill C-54) which proposes increased

penalties for sexual offences against children as well as creates two new offences aimed at conduct that could facilitate or enable the commission of a sexual offence against a child;

The Penalties for Organized Drug Crime Act (former Bill S-10) which would target organized crime by imposing tougher sentences for the production and possession of illicit drugs for the purpose of trafficking;

Sebastien's Law (Protecting the Public from Violent Young Offenders) (former Bill C-4) which would ensure that violent and repeat young offenders are held accountable for their actions and that the protection of society is a paramount consideration in the treatment of young offenders by the justice system;

The Ending House Arrest for Property and Other Serious Crimes by Serious and Violent Offenders Act (former Bill C-16) which would eliminate the use of conditional sentences or house arrest for serious and violent crimes;

The Eliminating Pardons for Serious Crimes Act (former Bill C-23B) which would extend the ineligibility periods for applications for a records suspension (currently called a "pardon") from three to five years for summary conviction offences and from five to ten years for indictable offences;

The Keeping Canadians Safe (International Transfer of Offenders) Act (former Bill C-5) which would add additional criteria that the Minister of Public Safety could consider when deciding whether or not to allow the transfer of a Canadian offender back to Canada to serve their sentence;

The Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act and related amendments to the State Immunity Act (former Bill S-7) which would allow victims of terrorism to sue perpetrators and supporters of terrorism, including listed foreign states, for loss or damage that occurred as a result of an act of terrorism committed anywhere in the world: and

The Preventing the Trafficking, Abuse and Exploitation of Vulnerable Immigrants Act (former Bill C-56) which would authorize immigration officers to refuse work permits to vulnerable foreign nationals when it is determined that they are at risk of humiliating or degrading treatment, including sexual exploitation or human trafficking.

We were unable to pass these separate bills into law with a minority Government; however, we are now able to move these important changes to our criminal law system with a majority Government. I am proud that we have moved quickly on our election promise and that this legislation will finally become law in Canada.

The Importance of Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day commemorates Canadians who died in service to Canada. November 11th is the day that we pause to remember those who served to protect our freedom and democracy at home and abroad.

The first Remembrance Day was conducted in 1919. Originally called Armistice Day it commemorated the end of WWI on November 11th, 1918 at 11:00 a.m. Canada saw 620,000 men and women serve at a time when our total population was only a few million. Of these brave men and women 66,000 were killed.

Canada has played an important role and sacrificed much for peace in the World. More than one million Canadians served in WWII and approximately 45,000 gave their lives. During the Korean War, more than 26,000 Canadians served with 516 lives lost during the conflict. Canadian soldiers have been involved in key U.N. peacekeeping roles from Cypress to Bosnia. Most recently the Canadian Armed Forces have made a significant contribution in Afghanistan in our fight against terrorism. Canada has lost 157 brave members of our military and 4 civilians in their fight to bring peace, democracy and security to a very troubled part of the world.

On November 11th please wear a poppy and join us at the Cenotaph at Burlington's City Hall for the 11:00 a.m. Remembrance Day Service. Please take a moment wherever you may be and remember those who have sacrificed so much for the Canada we all cherish today. We will remember them.



Yellow Ribbons for Afghanistan Veterans

What Goes On in Parliament: A Working Day in the Commons

At the beginning of each sitting of the House, the Speaker takes the chair, the Sergeant-at-Arms lays the Mace (a gold-plated war club, symbol of the House's authority) on the long table in front of the Speaker, and the Speaker reads the daily prayer. Government supporters sit to the Speaker's right, members of opposition parties to the left. The first few rows of desks on the Government side, near the centre, are occupied by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Opposite them sit the leader of the official Opposition and the chief members of his/her party. In the rest of the House, the seating arrangements depend on the number of members elected from each political party. The leaders of the other major opposition parties sit in the front row farther down the chamber, at the opposite end from the Speaker. At the long table sit the Clerk of the House, the Deputy Clerk, and the other "table officers", who keep the official record of decisions of the House. At desks in the wide space between Government and Opposition sit the proceedings monitors, English and French, who identify each speaker and the person being addressed. This information complements the electronic recording of proceedings, which are published the next day. There is simultaneous translation, English and French, for all speeches, and all the proceedings are televised and recorded.

After routine proceedings, the House considers Government Orders. Every day the House sits there is a question period, when members (chiefly opposition) question Ministers on Government actions and policies. This is an important part of the process of keeping the Government responsible and responsive.

The rest of the day is taken up with bills, which are in fact proposed laws. Any member can introduce a bill, but most of the time is reserved for bills introduced by the Government.

One hour of each day is reserved for the consideration of any business sponsored by a private member, that is, by any member who is not part of the cabinet.

A Cabinet Minister or backbench member proposing a bill first moves for the House's "leave" to introduce it. This is given automatically without debate or vote. Next comes the motion that the bill be read a first time and printed. This also is automatic without debate or vote. On a later day comes the motion for second reading (although sometimes a bill is sent directly to a committee before second reading). This is the stage which members debate the principle of the bill. If it passes second reading, it goes to a committee of the House, usually a standing committee. Each such committee may hear witnesses, considers the bill, clause by clause, before reporting it (with or without amendments) back to the House. The size of these committees varies from Parliament to Parliament, but the parties are represented in proportion to their strength in the House itself. Some bills, such as appropriation bills (based on the Estimates), which seek to withdraw money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, are dealt with by the whole House acting as a committee.

Committees, sitting under less formal rules than the House, examine bills clause by clause; each clause has to be passed. Any member of the committee can move amendments. When all the clauses have been dealt with, the chairperson reports the bill to the House with any amendments that have been adopted.

When a committee has reported the bill to the House, members at this "report stage" may move amendments to the various clauses (usually, amendments they have not had the opportunity to propose in committee). When these have been passed, or rejected, the bill goes to third reading. If the motion for third reading carries, the bill

goes to the Senate, where it goes through much the same process. Bills initiated in the Senate and passed there come to the Commons, and go through the same stages as Common bills. No bill can become law (become an act) unless it has been passed in identical form by both houses and has been assented to, in the Queen's name, by the Governor General or a deputy of the Governor General (usually a Supreme Court Judge). Assent has never been refused to a federal bill, and our first Prime Minister declared that refusal was obsolete and had become unconstitutional. In Britain, Royal Assent has never been refused since 1707.

There are some 20 or more standing committees (Agriculture, Canadian Heritage, Veterans Affairs, etc) whose members are appointed at the beginning of each session or in September of each year, to oversee the work of Government departments, to review particular areas of federal policy, to exercise procedural and administrative responsibilities related to Parliament, to consider

matters referred to them by the House, and to report their findings and proposals to the House for its consideration.

Included in the work of standing committees is the consideration of the Government's spending Estimates. The Standing Orders provide for these Estimates to be sent to the committees for review.

Finally, standing committees are designated as having certain matters permanently referred to them (such as reports tabled in the House pursuant to a statute, and the annual report of certain Crown corporations). Each of these automatic Orders of Reference is permanently before the committees, and may be considered and reported on as the committees deem appropriate.

The House of Commons set up special committees for the examination of particular subjects, including legislative committees whose mandate is solely to examine a particular piece of legislation. It also establishes, with the Senate, joint committees of the two houses.



Mike Wallace at Parliament Hill

Photograph Taken By Life's Moments

Community Group Profiles



St. John Ambulance Saint-Jean

SAVING LIVES SAUVER DES VIES
at work, home and play au travail, à la maison et dans les loisirs



Operation Red Nose returns to Burlington this December for its 3rd annual campaign.

Operation Red Nose is conducted over the holiday season by St. John Ambulance. It is a unique road-safety campaign devoted to the prevention of impaired driving.

Operation Red Nose helps clients to celebrate responsibly by driving clients and their passengers to their destinations, in the client's own car, for free!

The service is provided by volunteer driving teams. Each team consists of 3 volunteers. Two volunteers drive the client in the client's vehicle while another volunteer follows behind in an escort car. In this manner, everyone arrives safely at their destination, including the client's vehicle!

Operation Red Nose will operate on December 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, and for the first time, the 31st, from 9 pm to 3 am each night.

Operation Red Nose welcomes donations, sponsors, and volunteers, to help us conduct this worthwhile campaign. The campaign particularly requires volunteers for New Year's Eve, our busiest evening.

Our volunteers have a great amount of fun during the campaign, and they are proud of the part they play in helping to keep Burlington's snowy streets a little safer during the holiday season.

For more information, call 905-634-6665, email to Burlington@operationrednose.com, or visit our website at www.operationrednoseburlington.ca.

PLAN AHEAD! HAVE A DESIGNATED DRIVER, STAY OVERNIGHT, CALL A CAB, OR CALL OPERATION RED NOSE!

The Children of Christmas Past

The Children of Christmas Past is an organization dedicated to bringing the joys of Christmas to Seniors who are alone at the holidays. Twelve years ago Jill Harrington began this grassroots charity originating in her home. Since then The Children of Christmas Past has grown to include satellite chapters distributing gifts to 4,000 seniors on Christmas Day. As with any charity, it relies on the generosity of its donors and volunteers to which Jill is truly thankful for.



More information on the charity and how you can become involved can be found on the website www.childrenofchristmaspast.com

If you belong to a local not-for-profit organization doing great things in our community, or know of a group that you feel should be highlighted here, please get in touch with our office.



Right: Finance Minister Jim Flaherty joined Mike Wallace in Burlington this past summer to meet with local business representatives for a discussion about the economy and to hear their concerns and ideas. Business representation came from the healthcare and non-profit organizations, engineering and construction sectors as well as the exporting and importing fields.



Mike Wallace, MP announces an investment of \$978,333 for Chango Inc. through FedDev Ontario's Investing in Business Innovation

Did you know?

No Postage required when mailing your MP

As outlined in the Canada Post Act, postage is not required for letters going to Members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers or Senators. This service is only provided when the mail is addressed to their Ottawa office. Please ensure you include your return address on the envelope in case the mail needs to be returned by Canada Post.

If you would like to send a letter to Mike free of charge, please mail to:

Mike Wallace, MP
Room 115
East Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Comments: _____

I look forward to hearing from you.

Information and Updates

Newcomers to Canada

To register for any of these Free programs, call the Halton Multicultural Council @ 905-842-2486. These programs are for adults only.

The Canadian Citizenship Test: Get Ready!

Central Library - last Friday every month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tansley Woods - 3rd Wednesday every month from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Learn how to apply for citizenship and practice taking the test during this program. Call 905-842-2486 ext 233 for details.

ESL Conversation Circle

Central Library - every Monday

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm - Beginner and Intermediate Levels

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Advanced Level

Build your confidence speaking English and meet new people.

Call 905-842-2486 ext 241 for details.

Upfront Events

Town Hall Meeting with Mike Wallace, MP

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Burlington Seniors' Centre

2285 New Street, Burlington, Ontario

Mike will provide an update on Federal issues being debated in the House of Commons. Participants are encouraged to ask questions.

Remembrance Day

Friday, November 11, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. @ **Spencer Smith Naval Monument**

Friday, November 11, 2011

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. @ **City Hall Cenotaph**

Christmas Open House

Wednesday, December 21, 2011

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Burlington Mall, Suite 209 (2nd floor)

Please join Mike Wallace & Staff at the 6th Annual Christmas Open House. Come and share in the spirit of the season!

Seniors Pension and Tax Seminar!

Are you receiving the benefits to which you are entitled?

Please join Mike Wallace, MP With representatives from Canada Revenue Agency and Service Canada

Thursday, February 23rd, 2012

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Burlington Seniors' Centre

2285 New Street

Topics to be covered:

Income Tax, Changes for the 2011 Tax Year
Tax Credits, CPP & OAS

Please register by calling 905-639-5757

Or email mike.wallace.c1@parl.gc.ca



Photograph taken by Sue Kojic



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UPFRONT
with **Mike Wallace, MP**

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