



Jonathan Wilkinson

NORTH VANCOUVER'S MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

November 18, 2016

Reflecting on a political anniversary

Family anniversaries have always, for me, been a time to reflect. So I suppose I should not have been surprised that my first anniversary in political office also turned out also to be an occasion for reflection and a taking of inventory.

What is most remarkable about the fact it has now been just over a year since I was elected as Member of Parliament for North Vancouver, is how different our country feels.

During the federal election campaign, on the doorstep, I often heard people say, "I want my Canada back."

I get the sense that there are now other concerns at the forefront of our national consciousness. I'd like to think that's because there is now a feeling of quiet assurance that Canada is back and on a forward path guided by values we recognize as having built our country.

One of the reasons this year has passed by so quickly is how busy it has been. Starting in November of 2015, the new government commenced work on what is a very ambitious agenda – and, while we have only begun, significant progress has been accomplished with several key elements of this agenda.

When climbing a mountain...

With so much still to do, a first anniversary is not a time for self-congratulation. But, when you're climbing a mountain, pausing on occasion to turn around to see how far you've climbed provides the energy and resolve to keep climbing.

On our first anniversary, as I look back, some of the more significant actions of the government include:

- Introducing a budget that focused significantly on making major infrastructure investments in areas such as public transit, roads bridges, clean water and affordable housing - that will assist us in growing our economy going forward
- A tax cut to strengthen the middle class that will benefit 9 out of 10 Canadian families
- Instituting the Canada Child Benefit – which will lift 300,000 Canadian children out of poverty
- Initiating an inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women
- Working to successfully relocate and integrate over 30,000 Syrian refugees

- Commencing and undertaking significant work on the development of an Innovation Agenda for Canada that will provide a blueprint for growing the Canadian economy as we transition towards a lower carbon economy
- Re-investing in the scientific capability of key federal departments such as the Dept of Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and revoking rules and regulations that muzzled government scientists
- Strengthening the Canada Pension Plan by reaching an historic agreement with provinces and territories that will ensure that Canadians retire with more sustainable incomes
- Raising the Guaranteed Income Supplement top up benefit for single seniors – which will help 900,000 seniors and lift 13,000 out of poverty
- Ensuring safe and consistent access to medical assistance in dying in Canada, and
- Ratifying the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and commencing the development of a Pan-Canadian framework for addressing greenhouse gas emissions

The year ahead

Our second year will be more challenging than the first - presenting both formidable challenges and opportunities. Some of the most significant of these will relate to the government's commitment to ensure that environmental sustainability and economic progress go hand in hand.

We were elected to make decisions on profoundly complex issues. Not everyone will be happy.

But Canadians can be certain this government will hold true to the fundamental commitment made when we were elected - that first and foremost our decisions will be based on evidence, on facts and on a clear-headed determination as to the best interests of this extraordinary country that is our home.

*Sponsored by the North Vancouver Federal Liberal Association, Liberal Party of Canada
PO Box 38585 Metropolitan PO,
N. Van. V7M 3N1*

CONTACT INFO:

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE: 102 West 3rd Street, North Vancouver
EMAIL: Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca | TEL: 604-775-6333