

Tilly
O'NEILL-GORDON

Member of Parliament for Miramichi
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APRIL IN A NUTSHELL

E-NEWS
April 2009
Staying Connected

Dear constituents,

Because I think it is important for you to be well informed at all times, here is a summary of the events that took place in April.

First of all, it was the month that marked, among other things, Equality Day (on the 21st), Holocaust Memorial Day (also on the 21st), Earth Day (on the 22nd) and National Volunteer Week.

Since April 1, 2009, the federal government has doubled the annual funding it provides from the Gas Tax Fund. It is offering municipalities a total of \$2 billion a year, almost three months ahead of schedule. This increased investment will mean **\$1,641,586** for our riding in 2009, and will make it possible to create jobs, increase sales for local businesses, and improve our families' quality of life.

I am happy to announce the creation of **290** summer jobs for students here, thanks to the **\$704,000** allocated to the riding of Miramichi. The **213 projects** submitted before the deadline have all been approved for funding. 129 not-for-profit organizations will be receiving financial support, as will 84 public sector agencies and private businesses.

The budget envelope is bigger this year to reflect the higher minimum wage, which has gone from \$7.75 an hour last year to \$8.00 an hour this year.

In addition to continuing my work in the House and with the standing committees on Veterans Affairs and the Status of Women, I also filled in last month for colleagues on the

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Official Languages and Health committees.

I met with residents of New Brunswick and/or our riding from the following organizations, among others: the Canadian Police Association, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the Atlantic Canada Airports Association, the Canadian Real Estate Association (including the President of the Northern NB Real Estate Board and members of the provincial Real Estate Council), the Recreational Vehicle Dealers Association of Canada, and the Canadian Automobile Dealers Association.

Several groups visited Ottawa where, with help from me and from Senator Percy Mockler, they were able to meet with Cabinet ministers.

It was my great pleasure to welcome Zachary Wilson of Miramichi, Taylor Lavigne of Sunny Corner and their teacher Patti Matchett, who had come to the nation's capital to participate in the Forum for Young Canadians.

A number of constituents met with me to discuss their concerns.

I much enjoyed the 30th anniversary celebrations for the fire station in Baie Sainte-Anne.

It was also gratifying to be able to announce funding for Kouchibouguac National Park.

To commemorate National Volunteer Week, I attended events in Rogersville, Blackville and Néguaac, taking the opportunity to present certificates of recognition to the volunteers whose exceptional work we were honouring.

A few days ago, I launched the "Proud to be Canadian" campaign and my first-ever photography contest for people in my riding of Miramichi.

You can read more about all these events below, but please do not hesitate to contact me if need be.

Have a great May!

Tilly

TILLY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Proud to be Canadian campaign :

Local Member of Parliament Tilly O'Neill-Gordon announced the launch of the Miramichi Proud to be Canadian Campaign.

The objective of the campaign is to have as many households as possible displaying the Canadian Flag on Canada Day. To facilitate this, all households in the riding will receive a kit in the mail containing a large paper flag, a reply card and a detailed explanation of the campaign. Constituents are asked to place the flag on their door or in a window that is visible to pedestrians. Households that wish to be counted as participants must fill out the reply card indicating their participation and mail it back to MP O'Neill-Gordon's office. No postage is required.

"My hope is that this campaign will get people excited about Canada Day and give my constituents a means to voice their pride in this great country," said MP O'Neill-Gordon. "I'm optimistic that by Canada Day, nearly every household in this riding will have a flag on display. I can't think of a better way to celebrate Canada Day."

The concept behind the campaign was developed during a discussion among Conservative MP's on how to best celebrate Canada Day. Several Conservative MPs have since agreed to launch Proud to be Canadian campaigns in their ridings.

The ridings that participate in the campaign will also be entered in a contest for the title of "Most Patriotic Riding in Canada." The riding with the highest percentage of residences displaying a flag on Canada Day will be declared the winner and will be announced to the House of Commons when Parliament resumes in the fall. The level of participation in each riding will be measured using the reply cards that are returned. Therefore, it is critical that the houses that do participate ensure they send back their reply card.

"It's easy to forget sometimes that we truly do live in the greatest country in the world," said MP O'Neill-Gordon. "I hope this campaign gets people thinking about how fortunate we are to be Canadians and why we need to be proud of Canada and what it represents."

Every Household of the riding will receive shortly a flyer including a paper flag to cut and to put in a window.

Thank you all!

Please feel free to forward this to anyone you think might be interested.

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