



TILLY O'NEILL GORDON

STRONG LEADERSHIP

A BETTER CANADA



E-Newsletter

**STAYING CONNECTED !
JANUARY 2010**

THE E-NEWSLETTER HAS A NEW LOOK FOR 2010 !

Dear constituents,

It is hard to believe that the holidays are already over and we are starting a new year! I hope that you had a great time celebrating with friends and family.

As you can see, our e-newsletter format has changed slightly for the new year. I hope that you like the changes and find the links and information useful.

I am proud of what our government has done over the last year to stabilize the economy and help Canadians get through this difficult time. Rest assured that we will continue to work just as hard in 2010.

Over the last few months, I have had the pleasure of attending various events in our riding, meeting with many of you and listening to your concerns. I always enjoy talking with my constituents.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 506-778-8448 or toll-free at 1-800-567-5564, or by email at oneilt@parl.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Tilly

USEFUL LINKS

[Services for Families and Children](#)

[Job Bank: Help for job seekers](#)

[Healthy Canadians: Your Source for a Healthier Lifestyle](#)

[Careers in the Canadian Forces](#)

SUPPORT YOUR MP !

Go to www.ratemymla.ca and click on New-Brunswick, then on Tilly O'Neill Gordon. You can vote and post a comment.
Thanks !

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to Visit Miramichi

In the early afternoon on Monday, January 18, the Hon. Jim Flaherty will meet with businesspeople at a round table in Miramichi.

Afterwards the Minister, who has Irish roots, will go to Loggieville to greet distant relations who share his family name.

Mr. Flaherty and Ms. O'Neill Gordon and their staff will hold a business meeting between two social events. The events will be held at the Rodd Miramichi Hotel at 1809 Water Street, in Miramichi and at the Miramichi Exhibition Building.

You can visit Shelly's web site at: www.tillygordon.ca

You can join Tilly on [Facebook](#).

You can watch her videos on [YouTube](#).

Fairness for the Self-Employed

Our government is pleased to announce that on December 15, 2009, the *Fairness for the Self-Employed Act* received Royal Assent. This legislation extends Employment Insurance (EI) maternity, parental, sickness and compassionate care benefits, collectively referred to as special benefits, to the self-employed on a voluntary basis. In 2008, the Government pledged to help provide improved economic security and support for all those who are self-employed, and through this legislation, we are delivering on, and in fact exceeding, our commitment.

Self-employed Canadians who choose to take advantage of EI special benefits will be required to opt into the EI program at least one year prior to claiming benefits, and will be responsible for making premium payments for the tax year in which they apply to the program. Subject to final approvals of regulations, they will be able to voluntarily opt into the EI program effective January 31, 2010, and, as a transitional measure, will be able to collect benefits as early as January 1, 2011, if they have registered on or before April 1, 2010. Special benefits provided to self-employed individuals will mirror those currently available to salaried employees under the EI program.

This new measure is just the latest in a series of improvements the Government has already made to ensure that the EI program remains fair.

The self-employed have previously had little or no income protection to cope with major life events, such as giving birth, caring for a newborn or newly adopted child, being sick or injured, or caring for a gravely-ill family member. Through this measure, we are now providing self-employed Canadians with greater peace of mind with respect to their future financial security.

The Government is pleased that Bill C-50 has also received Royal Assent. Through this measure, we are providing, on a temporary basis, additional EI regular benefits to long-tenured workers. Long-tenured workers are individuals who have paid EI premiums for years and made limited use of the program, and who now need additional support while they look for jobs in a recovering economy.

For more information, visit the following Web site: http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/ei/self_employed_workers.shtml.

The next phase of our Economic Action Plan will be launched, following the Olympic Games, with a Throne Speech on March 3 and a Budget on March 4.

The economy remains Canadians' top priority and our top priority. The three economic themes of the new session will be: (1) completing implementation of the Economic Action Plan, (2) returning the federal budget to balance once the economy has recovered and (3) building the economy of the future.

Ms Hoepfner's bill to repeal the long-gun registry will be unaffected by the launch of a new session. We will reintroduce in their original form the consumer safety law (Bill C-6) and the anti-drug-crime law (Bill C-15).

We will seek Opposition agreement to proceed expeditiously with other Government legislation -- particularly laws urgently needed to fight crime.



www.tillygordon.ca

Government of Canada Support to Provinces and Territories at an All-Time High

The Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, announced that total transfers to provinces and territories will increase by \$2.4 billion in 2010-11, bringing total federal support to \$54.4 billion, the highest level ever.

For more information, <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n08/09-119-eng.asp>

Interested in having your Member of Parliament attend an event in the riding?

Please contact your constituency office at 778-8448 or 1 800-567-5564.

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

If you have received this from a friend and would like to sign up to regularly receive **Staying Connected**, if you have questions or comments, please email me at oneilt@parl.gc.ca or call me at 506-778-8448.