

Tilly O'NEILL-GORDON

Member of Parliament for Miramichi
www.tillygordon.ca



MAY IN A NUTSHELL

E-NEWS
May 2009
Staying Connected

Dear constituent,

Here's a summary of what happened in May and the latest from Parliament Hill.

First off, May 3–9 was Emergency Preparedness Week. Kits containing guides and posters on how to prepare for an emergency were sent to fire stations in the riding and are available to everyone.

In May we celebrated Mother's Day (the 10th), the International Day of Families (the 15th), National Missing Children's Day (the 25th) and the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (the 29th).

I was happy to announce the creation of 290 summer jobs for students in our riding. Financial support totalling \$704,000 was awarded to the riding of Miramichi for all the 213 projects submitted respecting the deadline. With a view to offering a variety of jobs to students, the funding was divided among 84 private/public sector businesses and 129 non-profit organizations.

Also in May I attended a number of events and made several announcements, including the "Launch of the Atlantic Portion of the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF)" on May 14 at the NBCC Forestry Training Center in Miramichi alongside the Hon. Keith Ashfield, Minister of State for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

On June 1, the government introduced changes to legislation to extend benefits to allied veterans and their families. (See the following page.)

Helpful Links

Festivals

[Jaloo Festival of Animation and Gaming](#)

[The NB 55+ Games](#)

[Miramichi Culture Fest](#)

[Rock 'n Roll Festival Miramichi](#)

[Canada's Irish Festival in Miramichi](#)

[Miramichi Exhibition](#)

Interested in having your Member of Parliament send you a congratulatory message, a card or attend an event in the riding?

Please contact your riding office at 778-8448.

And don't forget about the Proud to be Canadian campaign. You still have a few more weeks to send us your entry.

Our photography contest runs until October 26. Visit www.tillygordon.ca for more information.

Don't miss out on the many festivals happening this summer in Miramichi. I've added a few links on the right.

Have a great summer!

Yours sincerely,

Tilly

COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Government Introduces Changes to Legislation to Extend Benefits to Allied Veterans and their Families

Backgrounder

In 1995, the *War Veterans Allowance Act* was amended so that Allied Veterans who moved to Canada after the Second World War were no longer eligible to apply for benefits (those who had access prior to the amendment continue to receive benefits). The Government of Canada has introduced legislation to extend benefits for these low-income Allied Veterans of the Second World War. It also proposes that eligibility be expanded to include Allied Veterans of the Korean War. Family members may also receive benefits.

To qualify for these benefits, these low-income Allied Veterans **must**:

have served with Allied Forces in the Second World War or Korean War;
AND
have lived in Canada for at least 10 years; OR
lived in Canada prior to enlisting; AND
live in Canada now.

Like all VAC programs, eligibility for these benefits is based on a variety of factors, including location and duration of military service, income and the nature and extent of health conditions.

Programs under this proposed legislation include:

War Veterans Allowance — Guaranteed monthly income to meet basic needs.

Assistance Fund — Financial assistance in times of emergency that affect health and/or safety.

Funeral and Burial — Financial assistance to ensure a dignified funeral and burial for Veterans.

Treatment Benefits — Coverage ranging from hearing aids to prescription drugs to dental and vision care.

Veterans Independence Program — A home-care program that includes personal care services, access to nutritious meals, housekeeping, grounds maintenance and other services.

Long-term Care — Care in a facility for those who are no longer able to stay at home.

Family members may also receive the War Veterans Allowance, the Assistance Fund and housekeeping and grounds maintenance to help them remain in their own homes.

While implementation is expected in January 2010, eligible Allied Veterans and family members may receive payment for benefits back to October 14, 2008.

For more information, visit www.vac-acc.gc.ca or call **1-866-890-6813** (service in English), **1-866-890-9437** (service in French), or **1-800-465-7735** (TTY/ATS).

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

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or,

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or,

if you have questions or comments, please email me at oneilt@parl.gc.ca or call me at 506-778-8448.