

OTTAWA REPORT

By Lois Brown, MP
Newmarket-Aurora

Tax Relief for Families

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has announced historic new measures to help make life more affordable for Canadian families. Highlights of the plan include:

- ? Two-thirds of the benefits will flow to low-and-middle income families.
- ? Families earning less than \$30K will receive an average benefit of \$1,218.
- ? A single parent with two children earning \$30,000 will receive \$1,524 per year.
- ? A two-income family with two kids where the mother earns \$48K and the father earns \$12K will receive a benefit of \$1,186 - 36% of their federal tax bill.
- ? A two-earner couple making \$48K and \$12K with one kid will see their tax bill reduced by 25%.
- ? A two-income family with two kids with one parent making \$96K and the second parent making \$24K will benefit by \$3,000.
- ? A single parent making \$50K with two kids will see \$986 in relief and benefits.

The average tax relief and benefits for these families will be \$1,140 in 2015.

The Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) for children under age 6 will be increased. Parents will receive a benefit of \$160 per month for each child under the age of 6?up from \$100 per month?as of January 1, 2015. In a year, a parent would receive up to \$1,920 per child.

Additionally, the UCCB will be expanded to include children aged 6 through 17. Parents will receive a benefit of \$60 per month as of January 1, 2015, for children aged 6 through 17 or \$720 per child per year. Families will begin to receive payments under the enhanced UCCB in July 2015 that will replace the existing Child Tax Credit for the 2015 and subsequent taxation years.

The new Family Tax Cut tax credit will allow a spouse to transfer up to \$50,000 of taxable income to a spouse in a lower tax bracket. The credit will provide tax relief?capped at \$2,000?for couples with children under the age of 18, effective for the 2014 taxation year. Income splitting has been helping seniors across the country, which is why the Government is now providing similar relief for families.

The Child Care Expense Deduction will be increased by \$1,000, effective for the 2015 taxation year. The maximum amounts that can be claimed will increase to \$8,000 from \$7,000 for children under age 7, to \$5,000 from \$4,000 for children aged 7 through 16 (and infirm dependent children over age 16), and to \$11,000 from \$10,000 for children who are eligible for the Disability Tax Credit.

Canadians at all income levels are benefiting from federal tax relief measures introduced since 2006, with low- and middle-income Canadians receiving proportionately greater relief. Previous tax relief measures introduced under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper has reduced federal taxes paid by the average two-earner family with two children by close to \$3,400. This puts the federal tax burden at its lowest level in 50 years.

Remembrance Week November 2 to 11

Veterans Week is November 2 to 11 and I encourage you to join me in remembering and honouring our Veterans. It is our collective duty to support and pay tribute to all those who have served our country, and those who continue to do so today. We must never forget the heavy price that has been paid to defend our cherished way of life and to protect our shared values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. We were reminded all too tragically of that reality only weeks ago, when terror attacks took two brave soldiers from our great nation. As Canadians we remain united, and these terrible events will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices our men and women in uniform have made throughout Canada's history, and continue to make today.

Our government is committed to honouring these sacrifices. We were proud to launch the World Wars Commemoration period this past summer, to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War and the 75th anniversary of Canada's engagement in the Second World War. Between now and 2020, we will commemorate the milestone anniversaries of Canada's many accomplishments and

sacrifices during the two World Wars. Through special ceremonies and activities, at home and abroad, we will ensure that Canadians never forget our country's extraordinary role in the Allied victories and of those since. This Veterans Week, consider attending a Remembrance Day ceremony, visiting a local cenotaph or wearing a poppy. Lest we forget.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who called, emailed, tweeted and posted their concern for my safety during the recent day of tragic events on Parliament Hill. It reminds me of how grateful I am to live in such a caring, resilient community and country and how adversity can bring out the very best of what it means to be Canadian.

If you would like to contact me on any issue, please call 905-953-7515 or visit my website at www.loisbrown.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.