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NDP FINANCE CRITIC ~ PORTE-PAROLE DU NPD EN MATIÈRE DE FINANCES

Winter 2019 issue

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YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 12TH ANNUAL DISABILITY TAX CREDITS SEMINARS

Join me on March 16, 2019 in New Westminister and on March 23, 2019 in Burnaby and find out how hundreds of your neighbours have benefited from these seminars.

In our community, thousands of people with disabilities may be eligible for an important tax credit that often includes a significant tax refund from the Canadian Revenue Agency. Many residents could be eligible for a tax refund under the Income Tax Act.

Some of you may already know that the Income Tax Act provides a non-refundable Disability Tax Credit to all eligible individuals. My office wants to make sure that every eligible New Westminister-Burnaby resident knows how to access this legitimate entitlement under the Income Tax Act. To that end, we are offering workshops to inform constituents about the Disability Tax Credit, which can amount to up to \$1200 per year, and can be claimed retroactively for up to 10 years.

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Peter speaking at the 11th Annual Disability Tax Credit information session alongside a Sign Language Interpreter.

While the Income Tax Act stipulates that this is a non-refundable tax credit, it is often transferable to spouses and other family members if the income of the relative with a disability or infirmity is too low.

If you'd like to learn more about the Disability Tax Credit, please contact my office at 604.775.5707 ■

Sincerely,

You, or someone you know, may be eligible for a DISABILITY TAX CREDIT retroactive for up to ten years.

Please join Peter for his 12th Annual Disability Tax Credit Seminars at the following wheelchair accessible locations:

Saturday March 16, 2019 from 1:00PM-3:00PM in New Westminister at Century House (620 8th St., Douglas Fir Room)

Saturday March 23, 2019 from 1:00PM-3:00PM in Burnaby at the Edmonds Community Center (7433 Edmonds St., Room 202)

Sign Language Interpreters will be in attendance.



2018 in Review: Liberals Choose Rich Corporations Over Everyday People

Layoffs, plant closures and precarious work have left many Canadians on shaky ground. As it stands, more than half of all Canadians are \$200 away from not being able to pay their bills and many will take on even more debt. Instead of bringing in immediate relief for people facing a housing crisis and crushing personal debt, Trudeau's priority in November's fall economic statement was to give billions of dollars in corporate giveaways with no strings attached, such as giving the richest corporations a \$14 billion tax giveaway, including massive write offs for private jets and limousines, but doing nothing for average Canadians struggling to make ends meet. And people can't afford to go back to the same old Conservative party who created so many of these problems we're facing today.

Trudeau's Liberal government's record in 2018 is defined by an unwillingness to help out Canadians struggling to make ends meet, but proves they are more than willing to give massive tax giveaways to the most profitable corporations and richest people in society. Prime Minister Trudeau doesn't seem to understand what people are actually going through and his choices this past year reflect that.

When regular people claim something on their taxes, they are given 90 days to prove that it's a legal claim, whereas it's been two years since the Panama Papers revealed that many of the richest people in Canada have been stashing billions of dollars in illegal offshore tax havens, and still not a single charge has been laid. It's like playing Monopoly where the richest always have a get-out-of-jail-free card, and everyone else has to roll the dice.



The NDP has been calling on the Trudeau government to focus on solutions that will lessen both the personal debt level of Canadian families, and the burden facing small businesses. The Liberal government's Fall Economic Update contained zero funding for housing, nothing to reduce the cost of prescription medicine and tuition fees, failed to close the funding gap for Indigenous peoples' education, and does not save the Ontario Basic Income Pilot Project.

Despite the calls from across the country for real change, when rich corporations come calling for help, the Liberal government rushes to give them what they want – but when Canadians ask for relief from the rising costs of housing, medication costs and unmanageable debt, Justin Trudeau's Liberals tell them to wait.

When push comes to shove, the Liberal government has shown it will side with corporate interests over the interests of Canadians every time.

The pre-budget 2019 hearings held across the country last fall showed the real concerns of Canadians, and they are far different than what the Finance Committee hears in the "Ottawa bubble". The Liberal MPs who form a majority on the committee simply refused to prioritize the concerns of Canadians who took the effort to come out and speak to the committee. But in the testimony that emerged from the dozens of groups that testified came real hope and optimism that Canadians understand where the Trudeau government should be investing.



Photo: Peter in his role as NDP Finance Critic, here with NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh and NDP Deputy Finance Critic, Pierre-Luc Dusseault at the National Press Theatre on Parliament Hill speaking out on the Liberal government's economic update, on its massive giveaways for Canada's richest corporations, and for offering nothing to Canadians who are struggling to make ends meet and facing record levels of household debt■

It's the compelling testimony of these witnesses that led the NDP to offer nearly 100 recommendations to the Finance Committee report. Concerns were raised about the affordable housing crisis, the absence of a national universal, single-payer pharmacare plan, the lack of comprehensive measures for real action on climate change, the lack of action on tax evasion and tax havens, the repeated calls for a Royal Commission into the Tax System, the lack of action with regards to the large, foreign-owned web giants like Facebook and Google and the profound under-funding of critical infrastructure in Indigenous communities.

The report contains too few recommendations for significant funding for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and infrastructure. In education particularly, funding should be substantial to put an end to massive inequalities in this area that penalize Indigenous peoples. In general, the recommendations in the FINA report do not appreciate the extent of the inequalities suffered by Indigenous peoples and do not offer any solutions to redress them.

Basically, a whole series of common sense social recommendations from witnesses who were not listened to and the NDP are missing from the Finance Committee pre-budget 2019 report. Extending compassionate care benefits by adding a two-week bereavement period, eliminating tuition fees for post-secondary education, setting the federal minimum wage at \$15 per hour: all these measures and more are missing in the pre-budget report delivered by the majority of the Finance Committee. Resources exist: the recent announcement of \$14 billion in tax cuts for large corporations in the mini-budget attest to this.

We need a federal government with a vision that takes our future seriously, like targeting the growing inequality between the wealthiest and everyone else, eliminating fossil fuel subsidies, investing in clean energy, meeting Canada's emissions reductions targets under the Paris Agreement, closing tax loopholes for the super-rich, and investing the recovered revenue for instance to lower the cost of prescriptions medicine for all Canadians.

It's time this Liberal federal government get their priorities straight and stop wasting taxpayer money on the massive pipeline purchase when they could be putting that money to good use in improving the lives of Canadians from coast to coast to coast and by taking concrete steps with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people towards reconciliation■

Peter in the Community



1 One of my favourite places to celebrate the Holiday Season is at the Union Gospel Mission! Canada is a rich country yet many people do not even have their basic needs met. In 2019, I am determined to keep the federal government accountable so no more Canadians are left behind ■



2 My constituent, Linda Cooper, brought in a memoir she put together for Colin Bason who was a member of the Royal Westminster Regiment. Colin was tragically killed in Afghanistan on July 4, 2007. His dedication to our country shall never be forgotten. Lest We Forget ■



3 Can't thank my volunteers enough for their major contributions to the Annual Christmas Open House that I co-hosted with MLA Judy Darcy in December! Still amazed by the record breaking attendance and amazing performances by Santa's Little Helpers and Cariboo Secondary's choir ■



4 I hosted a Youth Engagement Forum at Douglas College Co-op in New Westminster. A sincere thank you to the youths for coming out & sharing their ideas of what a better community and a better Canada should look like ■



5 Had an awesome Dim Sum lunch with NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh & MLA Anne Kang at Fortune House Seafood Restaurant in Metrotown in Burnaby. It was a great opportunity to talk about issues that matter to Burnaby residents ■



6 Thank you to Fraser Health, one of five BC regional health authorities, for coming out to my community office to give me and my staff the naloxone training. Drug Overdose is epidemic in Canada. Anyone at risk of overdose or know anyone at risk can access Take Home Naloxone kits and training at New Westminster and Burnaby Public Health Units ■



7 Nowadays, young people are concerned with the high cost of living, high tuition fees, climate change, inequality, mental health, drug overdose and the precarious job situation. At the end of the Youth Engagement Forum, the youths were energized and empowered because they wanted to be part of the action and change. I announced that my office will be establishing a Youth Council. Are you interested in joining the committee? Please contact my office at peter.julian.c1d@parl.gc.ca ■



THE ONGOING FIGHT FOR EVERY ONE'S RIGHT TO HAVE A SAFE, AFFORDABLE PLACE TO CALL HOME, AND WHERE NO-ONE IS LEFT OUT IN THE COLD | SIGN E-PETITION E-1954

I need your support to have your voices heard in Parliament. The affordable housing crisis continues to affect the well-being of many members of our community in New Westminster-Burnaby and other regions of Canada.

The mini-budget presented by the finance minister on November 21, 2018, gave nearly five billion dollars next year and fourteen billion dollars overall in Christmas gifts to the corporate sector and not a dime to address the urgent housing crisis.

Instead, the government should put three billion dollars immediately into building affordable housing and announce an emergency housing plan right across the country to make sure that all Canadians have a roof over their heads as soon as possible. We must keep the pressure on to persuade the Trudeau government to act decisively and address this important matter of health & quality of life.

I therefore invite you to sign the-petition, e-1954 (affordable housing), which I am sponsoring, calling on the Government of Canada to allocate money now for affordable housing to address the housing crisis, aggravated by the current cold wave, linked to climate change, instead of giving billions of dollars to the corporate sector through tax breaks; and



to immediately accelerate funding for affordable housing and announce an emergency housing plan right across the country to ensure that all Canadians have a safe, affordable place to call home, and that no-one is left out in the cold.

To sign the e-petition: please visit www.petitions.parl.gc.ca and type in e-1954 in the search bar. Scroll to the bottom, click on Sign the Petition and follow the instructions from there. I invite you to share this information as broadly as possible by emailing this link to your friends and the community. **This e-petition is open for signature until April 6, 2019, at 12:37 p.m. (EDT) after which it will no longer be available for signature.**

Until then, let's gather as many signatures as possible to help make sure that the government takes this issue seriously. We will need to get at least 500 signatures so that I can present the e-petition in the House and receive a government response within 45 days. The House of Commons

will keep your names and contact information confidential and purge all records after I table the electronic petition in Parliament.

For those of you who do not have access to the Internet, I'd be happy to forward you a paper petition that you could circulate and mail back to my Ottawa office, postage free. Please indicate this by contacting my Parliamentary staff by email peter.julian@parl.gc.ca or by dialing 1-866-599-4999 toll-free ■

My office is here to help.

My team can help constituents experiencing difficulties & with inquiries to federal government departments and agencies, including:

- Citizenship, immigration & visa applications
- Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security (OAS) & Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- Employment Insurance
- Canada Revenue Agency & tax benefits
- Canada Student Loans
- Veterans Affairs

We can also arrange special messages for occasions such as birthdays & anniversaries; provide referrals to other services offered in Burnaby and New Westminster; and we'll do our best to support initiatives that enrich our community.

I am here to ensure that you have a strong voice in Parliament. Please do not hesitate to write, phone or email me your views on policies affecting our community.



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