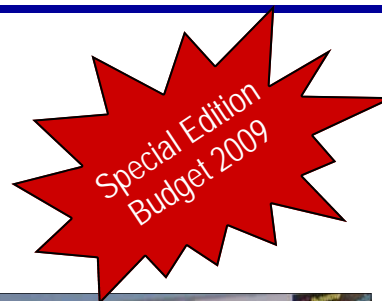




Winter 2009

*Working
for you...*



Member of Parliament Ed Holder visited with the University Heights Public School Grade 5-6 gifted class of Mr. Jeff Tooke.

www.edholder.ca

It is my pleasure to once again write to you as your elected federal representative in London West.

Our federal government has just released Budget 2009. This is our response to unprecedented economic turmoil around the world.

Canada's government has prepared for this day over the past couple of years with prudent decisions to cut taxes, make strategic investments and ensure a stable banking system.

Canada will be affected by the global crisis, but we will fare much better than any other nation. We will be the last country into this mess and we will be the first country out of it.

The following pages will provide more detail on what the budget means for you, your family and London.

While the next several months will be tougher for some than others, please be assured that I will continue to do my utmost to make sure Londoners receive what they need to weather this economic storm.

Your continued support is sincerely appreciated.



Ed Holder, Member of Parliament for London West



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SKATE FOR KIDS

MP Ed Holder & Big Brothers/Big Sisters Celebrate Family Day With *Skate For Kids*

Ed Holder and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of London and Area celebrated the February 16 Family Day holiday with more than 550 London kids of all ages at Ed's *Skate For Kids* celebration at the John Labatt Centre.



This was the second year that Ed hosted a Family Day skate at the JLC. Each has been focused on providing London families with a fun outing on this newest of Ontario holidays. The family skates have always been free. This year's attendees were simply asked to make a non-perishable food donation at the door to the London Food Bank, an essential family service during these tough economic times. More than 25 boxes of food were collected and given to the London Food Bank—because Londoners care!

The tie in with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of London and Area made this year's *Skate For Kids* particularly special. On February 1 of this year Big Brothers and Big Sisters in our region followed the success of other Big Brothers/Big Sisters locations across Canada and became a unified organization.

Sheila O'Neill, the Resource Development Manager for the new organization said, "Unification is an excellent opportunity for both Big Brothers/Big Sisters to take what we do best and make it even better for the benefit of children and families in our community. Looking ahead, we will be able to serve more children for longer periods of time and offer enhanced programs and enriched experiences for both boys and girls. We are thrilled to have our first unified event at the Ed Holder *Skate For Kids*. This was a fun way to begin our new journey together!"



www.edholder.ca

ANGUS MCKENZIE

Mr. Angus McKenzie, a very prominent individual in the London area, passed away recently.

On January 27, 2009, Member of Parliament Ed Holder paid tribute to him. He rose in the House of Commons and made the following statement:

This tribute is available in an audio file at www.edholder.ca.

“Mr. Speaker, on January 19th, 2009 the citizens of London lost a tremendous community hero.

I lost my very dear friend, Angus McKenzie. His 82 years with us was too short.

He was a successful lawyer and a founding partner with McKenzie Lake law firm.

Angus was a giant in terms of community service; a legend who cannot be replaced.

He helped most every charity in London and more importantly, thoughtfully challenged others to do the same. He brought out the best in us and elevated our commitment to community.

All the while, Angus was a true gentleman....very gracious....very humble. His involvement will be deeply missed, yet his enduring influence will be the living legacy of community leaders he inspired. This was his great gift to us.

On behalf of London and Canada, I wish to thank his wife Jean and their children - Kate, Carol and Ian. They sacrificed so much so that we could spend time with Angus.

We'll miss you dear friend.”



PRIVATE ANDREW KNISLEY

“Private Andrew Knisley of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, from London, was recently injured in Afghanistan. The Hon. Peter Mackay, Minister of National Defence and I were privileged to be able to privately visit Andrew in hospital. We talked at length, honoured his service and wished him all our best in his recovery. I just wanted to let him know that Canadians are very appreciative of the sacrifices he and his fellow soldiers have made,” said Ed Holder.

Ed Holder rose in the House of Commons and made this statement:



Defence Minister Peter Mackay and MP Ed Holder visited Pte. Andrew Knisley in hospital and presented him with an official certificate of the special tribute made in Parliament while his father Ken looked on.

“Mr. Speaker, on January 19th, 2009 Londoner, Private Andrew Knisley of the Royal Canadian Regiment was seriously wounded in Afghanistan.

Private Knisley is now back in Canada and recovering with the unwavering support of his father Ken, mother Heather, his sister Ruth, his friends and his military family.

We appreciate and admire those who risk their lives and their health in defence of Canada and the values we represent.

Private Knisley is one of many seriously injured soldiers. Their sacrifice is a daily struggle and they deserve our unqualified support.

They exemplify the brave Canadian soldier who heads to foreign lands to improve the lives of complete strangers.

Unfortunately, like those he helped, Private Knisley will wear the scars of war for the rest of his life.

Soldiers don't quit. They face adversity and use it to focus on what matters. It is who they are.

We wish Private Knisley a quick recovery and we admire the brave soldiers who serve our country abroad.

God bless you Andrew; and from this Canadian, you have my sincerest gratitude.”

BUDGET 2009 FOR HOMEBUYERS

Our government has just made it a little easier for first-time home buyers. The **Home Buyers' Plan** (HBP) will now allow first-time buyers to draw up to \$25,000 from their RRSPs to be used as a down payment. A new **First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit** will also provide up to \$750 in tax relief.

Previously, home buyers were able to draw a maximum of \$20,000. This amount did not keep pace with inflation in the 16 years since the program was introduced in 1992.

In 1992, \$20,000 represented 13.3% of the average house price. In London West, that amount would only cover 8.6% of the total cost today.

This initiative will prove to be one of the most important for generating economic activity. We want to make it easier for Canadians to buy their first home while also promoting the continued use of RRSPs.

The money withdrawn under the HBP can be used for any expenses related to the purchase of a new home including closing costs.

In 2007, 52,380 Canadians used the Home Buyers' Plan, and those withdrawals generated \$1.7 billion in additional economic spending.



Industry Minister Tony Clement, MP Ed Holder discuss the new *Home Renovation Tax Credit* with Murray Shaw during a recent visit to Murray Shaw Roofing. Homeowners can be eligible for up to \$1,350. Details on Pg. 7.

BUDGET 2009 FOR HOMEOWNERS

The new **Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC)** is a non-refundable tax credit for work performed or goods bought for renovations on a housing unit that is an individual's **principal residence or that of one or more of their family members.**

The credit will be for eligible expenditures for work performed or goods acquired after January 27, 2009 and before February 1, 2010. Agreements prior to January 28, 2009 will not be eligible.


Eligibility for the HRTC will be family-based. If two or more families share the ownership of an eligible dwelling, each family will be eligible for their own separate credit.

The credit will only be available for the 2009 tax year and applies to eligible expenditures of more than \$1,000, but not more than \$10,000, resulting in a maximum credit of \$1,350 (\$9,000 x 15%).

To be eligible, expenditures incurred in relation to a renovation or alteration to an eligible dwelling must be of an enduring nature and integral to the dwelling, and includes the cost of labour and professional services, building materials, fixtures, rentals, and permits. Eligible expenditures must be supported by acceptable documentation.

In the case of condominiums and co-operative housing corporations, the individual's share of the cost of eligible expenditures for common areas will qualify.

Beginning with the 2009 personal income tax return, a new line will be incorporated to allow you to claim the credit. Full details and additional information will be posted on the CRA's website at www.cra.gc.ca as it becomes available or by calling toll-free 1-800-267-6999.

Eligible	Ineligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Renovating a kitchen, bathroom or basement ● New carpet or hardwood floors ● Building an addition, deck, fence ● Purchasing a new furnace ● A new driveway ● Painting of interior or exterior of a house 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Furniture, appliances, and audio and visual electronics ● Curtains and draperies ● Purchasing of tools ● Cleaning carpets ● House cleaning <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>

BUDGET 2009 FOR FAMILIES

The building block of any community is the family unit and this is why Budget 2009 has taken steps to ensure Canadian families remain vibrant and strong during these turbulent economic times.



- ◆ Immediate tax relief for all low and middle-income Canadians through an increase in the basic personal exemption amount to \$10,320 for 2009. This allows **all taxpayers** to earn more income that is not subject to federal tax at all.

- ◆ Upper limits of the first and second income tax brackets have been increased 7.5% above 2008 levels to \$40,726 and \$81,452 respectively. This allows **all taxpayers** to earn more income before being subject to higher tax rates. They will also be indexed for 2010 and future years.

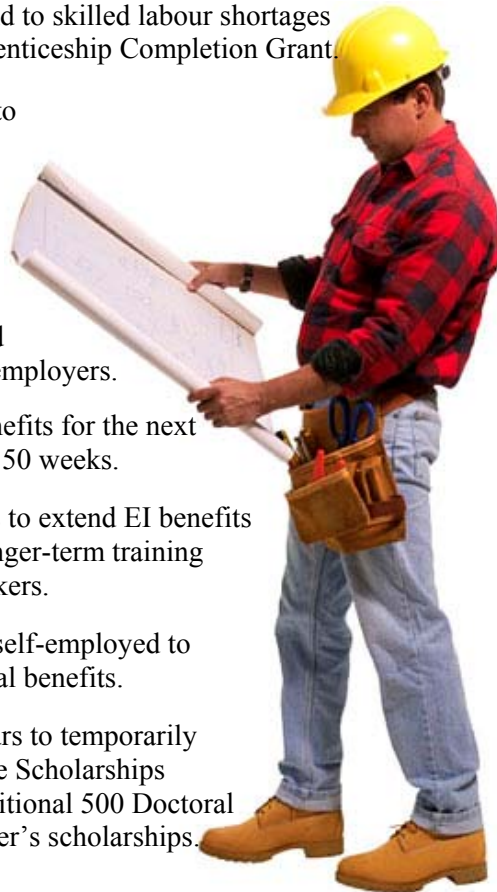
- ◆ Increased amounts families can earn while still receiving the National Child Benefit (NCB) supplement and Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB). Families can earn an extra \$1,894 before their maximum NCB or CCTB benefits are reduced.



- ◆ The Working Income Tax Benefit has been increased by \$580 million and so doubles the support available to low-income Canadians to get over the 'welfare wall'.

BUDGET 2009 FOR WORKERS

- ◆ \$500 million over two years in a Strategic Training and Transition Fund to support those who do not qualify for EI training, such as the self-employed or those who have been out of work for a prolonged period of time.
- ◆ \$55 million over two years to help young workers, our future workforce, find summer jobs.
- ◆ \$40 million a year to respond to skilled labour shortages through a new \$2,000 Apprenticeship Completion Grant.
- ◆ \$50 million over two years to develop a national foreign credential recognition framework in partnership with the provinces.
- ◆ Freezing Employment Insurance rates for 2009 and 2010 for both workers and employers.
- ◆ Increasing maximum EI benefits for the next two years from 45 weeks to 50 weeks.
- ◆ \$500 million over two years to extend EI benefits for those participating in longer-term training which will help 10,000 workers.
- ◆ Developing options for the self-employed to access maternity and parental benefits.
- ◆ \$87.5 million over three years to temporarily expand the Canada Graduate Scholarships program to allow for an additional 500 Doctoral scholarships and 1000 Master's scholarships.



You can get the latest tax information by visiting the Canada Revenue Agency website — www.cra.gc.ca. You can also access all your personal tax information simply by using the online services .

BUDGET 2009 FOR SENIORS

Canada's Seniors have worked hard for many years to ensure we can live and thrive in the bountiful and free country we have today. While many of them are well prepared to weather this economic storm, others deserve our respectful support and a little assistance to get through. Here are a few things we are doing for our Seniors.



◆ We are again raising the Age Credit. We have raised the Age Credit by \$1000 so that 2.2 million Seniors can now receive additional tax relief through the credit.

◆ We increased the Canada Health Transfer by \$878 million from last year to ensure our health system has the funding to meet increasing costs.

◆ We are spending \$60 million over three years to support older workers and their families through the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers.

◆ For more information on the services and benefits available for Seniors, please visit www.seniors.gc.ca or call 1-800-OCANADA.



BUDGET 2009 FOR BUSINESSES

It is the businesses of Canada which provide the jobs and investment opportunities for Canadians. As many have said before, they are the engine of our economy. This is why, even during times of economic hardship, we must responsibly consider what governments can do to assist businesses and keep that economic engine humming.

- ◆ We introduced a temporary 100% capital cost allowance rate for computer hardware and software acquired after January 27, 2009 and before February 1, 2011.
- ◆ A two-year extension of the 50%-straight-line accelerated Capital Cost Allowance rate for investment in Manufacturing and Processing machinery and equipment which will allow businesses to restructure and retool and become more competitive.
- ◆ Increased the amount of small business income eligible for the 11% tax rate from \$400,000 to \$500,000.
- ◆ Increasing access to financing for small businesses through proposed amendments to the Canada Small Business Financing Program and the Business Development Bank of Canada.
- ◆ \$30 million over two years for the Canada Business Network and \$10 million in 2009-10 to the Canadian Youth Business Foundation.
- ◆ Allocating \$200 million over two years to the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program to enable it to temporarily expand its initiatives for small and medium businesses.



MP Ed Holder joins with staff to celebrate the grand opening of the new Neighbourhood Pet Clinic Group Inc. veterinary facility.

BUDGET 2009 FOR CITIES

Until Budget 2009, southern Ontario was the only geographic region in Canada without a federally-funded economic development agency.

Our government has just announced the creation of the **Southern Ontario Development Agency (SODA)**. This Agency will receive \$1 billion over five years to invest in Southern Ontario.

The proven success of these agencies suggests a multitude of new opportunities for Southern Ontario. When coupled with the investments listed below, our cities definitely benefited with Budget 2009.

- ◆ \$4 billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund over two years to provide funding to rehabilitate infrastructure.
- ◆ \$1 billion over five years for a Green Infrastructure Fund for projects, including sustainable energy.
- ◆ \$500 million over two years to create Recreational Infrastructure Canada to support the construction of new recreational facilities and upgrades to existing facilities.
- ◆ \$500 million over two years dedicated to accelerate infrastructure in small communities.
- ◆ \$1 billion in accelerated payments under the Provincial-Territorial Base Funding Initiative to expedite “ready-to-go” or “shovel-ready” infrastructure projects.
- ◆ \$2 billion to support maintenance, repair, and to accelerate new projects at colleges and universities.

Better Waterworks for Londoners

The Government of Canada moved on the **HELP Clean Water** (Huron Elgin London Project) project recently.

The project has a federal green light to start construction now that the federal review for this project is complete.

The City of London will get up to \$50 million for this project from the Government of Canada.

This is the kind of important project this government is proud to support. It will bring clean water to more than 500,000 people in Southwestern Ontario, including London.

Our Government recognizes that building water treatment plants, highways and other infrastructure helps to boost our economy. These construction projects create jobs and help build a long-term legacy for Canadians.

WORK-SHARE TO PREVENT LAYOFFS

Our federal government has just announced the expansion of the Work-Sharing program that provides options to employers and employees to avoid layoffs under tough economic times. The program allows for employees to collect a combination of reduced pay and supplemental Employment Insurance (EI) benefits.

This successful program has been expanded from 36 weeks to 52 weeks to meet growing needs and recognize its effectiveness.

The Work-Sharing program provides income support to workers eligible for EI benefits and who are willing to work a temporary reduced work-week when there is a reduction in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer.

Work-Sharing agreements must be approved by the employee, employer and by the Employment Insurance Commission.

It should be noted that if a worker is laid off subsequent to Work-Sharing, his/her entitlement to EI regular benefits is unaffected by the receipt of Work-Sharing benefits.

A Win-Win Situation

Work-Sharing benefits workers as they avoid the hardship of being laid off and they retain their work skills.

It benefits employers as valued employees are retained, staff morale is strengthened and expensive rehiring and retraining costs are avoided.

Work-Sharing is a voluntary program in which management and workers agree to participate. A Work-Sharing unit may include any group of EI eligible employees in a company, but does not necessarily include all of the employees. The unit should not include those employees who are needed to help generate work and assist in the recovery of the company. Outside sales staff and managers are generally not eligible.

Employees must be deemed qualified EI claimants and must mutually agree with the employer's strategy to share available work over a reduced work week in order to avert layoffs. Part-time employees may participate in Work-Sharing but seasonal employees are not eligible.

Those interested in knowing more about the Work-Share Program or those interested in participating in the program should contact Service Canada at 1-800-OCanada or visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca


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Your Opinion Matters...

As your elected Member of Parliament, Ed Holder will use your opinions and comments to determine how you want to be represented. Your participation in this free survey is appreciated.

Thank you for completing and returning this survey.

What are the top three issues that you would like to see your Member of Parliament Ed Holder focus on?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What do you think of the job **Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party** are doing?

- Excellent
- Good
- Poor

What do you think of the job **Michael Ignatieff and the Liberal Party** are doing?

- Excellent
- Good
- Poor

What do you think of the job **Jack Layton and the New Democratic Party** are doing?

- Excellent
- Good
- Poor

What do you think of the job your **Member of Parliament Ed Holder** is doing?

- Excellent
- Good
- Poor

Every week, Ed Holder sends out an email with the latest events, news and happenings. To get this free letter, please provide your email address.



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