

David Tilson MP ? Our government's 2013 spring sitting accomplishments in Parliament



Canada kicked off the month of June with some good news ? our economy has created more than one million net new jobs since the depths of the global economic recession in July 2009.

Indeed, this is the best job creation record in the G7 and it is proof that Canada's Economic Action Plan is working.

The past few months have been productive and our government has passed a number of bills to support Canadians and Canada's long-term prosperity. Many of those bills received Royal Assent June 19, officially making them law.

This includes the Faster Removal of Foreign Criminals Act. This new law will make it easier for the government to remove dangerous foreign criminals from our country. It will make it harder for those who may pose a risk to Canada to enter our country in the first place. It will also help remove barriers for legitimate visitors who want to come to Canada.

The Increasing Offenders' Accountability for Victims Act is also now law. Building on our priority of holding offenders accountable for their actions, the legislation doubles the victim surcharge that offenders must pay and ensures that the surcharge is applied to all offenders.

We were also pleased that the Enhancing Royal Canadian Mounted Police Accountability Act is now law. The RCMP will now have the tools it needs to restore accountability within its ranks. As Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews said, ?The RCMP is recognized around the world as a symbol of who we are as Canadians . . . However, Canadians' confidence in the RCMP has been tested . . . this legislation will ensure that the RCMP is fully accountable for its actions and is open and transparent in its service to Canadians.?

A number of other bills that are now law include new measures to combat and prevent terrorism, as well as improve the Witness Protection Program. Also, thanks to the passage of a number of private member's bills put forward by Conservative MPs, it is now illegal to conceal one's identity during riots and unlawful assemblies. Canada's waters are also now better protected against bulk water removal.

A number of new laws from the spring sitting will specifically address the issues facing Aboriginal peoples in Canada, including giving equal rights to women and girls living on reserves, increasing financial transparency for First Nations, and creating a new framework to provide safe drinking water for First Nations reserves.

Of course, this is all on top of the passage of the Economic Action Plan 2013 Act, No. 1 in the House of Commons earlier this spring, which implements many important measures from Economic Action Plan 2013. It extends for two years the temporary accelerated capital cost allowance for new investment in machinery and equipment by Canadian manufacturers, eliminates tariffs on sports equipment and baby clothing, and delivers the new First-Time Donor's Super Credit, among others.

Through a productive and hard-working sitting of the House of Commons, our Government has delivered real results for Canadians by helping to strengthen our economy, create jobs and support families.