

# SUKH DHALIWAL REPORTS



## Eliza Olson honored as Earth Day Canada's "Hometown Hero"

Sukh Dhaliwal was on hand at the International Bog Day event at the Great Pacific Forum in North Delta on Sunday, July 30, to congratulate Burns Bog Conservation Society president Eliza Olson for her award honoring her as Earth Day Canada's Hometown Hero.

"This is an award well deserved," Dhaliwal said, "Eliza has been a tireless advocate for environmental issues long before it became a global imperative. She was instrumental in the purchase of a large portion of Burns Bog, by four orders of government, on March 5th, 2004. It has been an honour and a privilege to work beside her on this issue."

Olson, a retired teacher, was instrumental in the creation and development of a number of environmental initiatives from her work with the conservation society. She helped launch International Bog Day from her work with the Peatlands for People conference and she spearheaded "Celebrating Women and the Spirit of the Cranes", inspired by the return of the Sandhill crane, a threatened species, to Burns Bog.

The Hometown Hero Award is given to one Canadian each year who "is integral in fostering an overall community awareness of pressing environmental concerns". This year's award was presented to the hero of our hometown at a gala event in Toronto in June.



Eliza Olson accepts a certificate from the House of Commons recognizing her tireless work to save Burns Bog

"With this federal government's abandonment of our Kyoto commitment and its lack of any real plan to replace it, it is more important than ever to keep environmental issues at the forefront," Dhaliwal added, "because action begins with awareness. Eliza Olson is more than a local hero. Her work is truly of national, and global importance."

### The Burns Bog Conservation Society needs your support

Visit their website at [www.burnsbog.org](http://www.burnsbog.org) or call 604-572-0373 to join the society or to make a tax-deductible, charitable gift.

Brochures and information are also available at my constituency office



Tom Dent, Arnie Van Hattem and Bob Campbell of the West Panorama Ratepayers Association meet with Sukh to discuss their concerns including the cuts to funding the Pacific Gateway project.

### West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association Looks to the Pacific Gateway for Infrastructure Projects

Arnie van Hattem, Bob Campbell and Tom Dent dropped by Sukh's constituency office for a morning meeting to talk about some of the more pertinent development concerns for the area and the impact of the drastic cuts to Pacific Gateway funding in the recent Conservative budget.

"We have one of the most rapidly developing regions in the country, but we have to make sure this development is carried out responsibly," Sukh said. "Arnie, Bob and Tom present some convincing arguments for projects that will ensure and enhance the quality of life in our community. I'd like to take them to the next

level and see what can be accomplished with support from the Pacific Gateway strategy."

One of the challenges moving forward is the watered down support for the Pacific Gateway, a Liberal initiative, in the last budget. The five year \$590 million commitment has now been stretched out to eight years, with funding for this year dramatically cut from \$190 to \$19 million.

"I don't know what it takes to convince this government to support British Columbia in its infrastructure development," Sukh added, "but with the work of Arnie, Bob and Tom, and all the members of the West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association, it makes it a lot harder for this government to tell Canadians it is not a priority."

#### The Pacific Gateway Project

Pacific Gateway Funding (in millions of dollars)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Liberal Government Economic and Fiscal Update (Nov. 2005)	\$73	\$138	\$140	\$131	\$109	\$590 million
Conservative Budget Plan 2006	\$19	\$72	\$92	\$56	no figures given	\$239 million

The Conservative Government's funding delays for the Pacific Gateway Project could result in costly delays and compromises in design.

## Back to School and Back to Parliament

Sukh Dhaliwal returns from his first week of the Fall Session to hold his Annual Community Picnic Saturday, September 23, 2006 12 to 4 PM Annieville Park 112th Street at 91st Avenue North Delta

### Sukh Meets With Local Residents, Labour Representatives on Childcare, "Scab" Labour and Healthcare.

While Sukh was back from Ottawa for a week, he had a chance to sit down with Lorri Mayhew, Terri Van Steinburg and Roy Sakashita, all residents of Newton – North Delta who represent the New Westminster and District Labour Council.

They talked about new federal legislation to prevent "scab" labour, the federal-provincial childcare agreement, completed by the Liberal government and canceled by Stephen Harper's Conservatives, and the expansion of the public health care system to help working people cope with the growing costs of drugs and home care services.

They found common ground on all three points of discussion. Sukh recognizes the need for federal legislation on scab labour to protect working families. He also supports any legislation that can salvage all or some of the tenets of the landmark childcare agreements with the provinces. A national pharmacare strategy, though considerably more ambitious, presents significant challenges given the current government's "modest" aims for a federal role in health care beyond transfer funding. Yet everyone was in agreement that Ottawa could and should do more to help average Canadians cope with the high costs of drugs and home care services.

Sukh will keep you informed about these issues as they take the form of legislation, debate and discussion in Ottawa.

## Sukh Dhaliwal Speaks Out on Harper's Comments on the Komogata Maru

Sukh Dhaliwal responded to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's reaction to calls for a formal apology to the Indo-Canadian community for the Komogata Maru incident of 1914. "At first I was surprised that he could be so ignorant about the petition on this issue," Dhaliwal said, "but upon reflection I realized this is entirely consistent with the superficial understanding of so many issues important to ordinary Canadians, coming from this government."

Harper's visit to the west coast provided him with an opportunity to respond to some very pointed questions from the Indo-Canadian media. Mention of a formal apology for the Chinese Head Tax in the Conservative government's Speech from the Throne has thrown new light on the Komogata Maru incident of 1914 in Canada, where 354 people, most of them Sikhs, were detained for two months and forced to depart, resulting in the loss of many innocent lives.

Caught off guard, Harper said he was unaware of the petition tabled in the House of Commons calling for a formal apology, and that all he could say was that he would look into the issue. "People from my own riding were instrumental in getting that petition to Ottawa," Dhaliwal said, "and it was a member of Harper's own caucus who was called upon to table it. You would think Harper would have some clue. When it comes to history, if it didn't happen in a hockey



The Komogata Maru was a freighter that was chartered from Hong Kong carrying passengers from India's Punjab region. It arrived in Vancouver on May 23, 1914.

Although they assumed that, being British subjects, they would have been allowed them to immigrate, discriminatory Canadian government policies at the time required "continuous passage" from India and they were therefore not allowed to disembark.

The ship was detained in Vancouver harbour where they frequently suffered from thirst and starvation for two months. The entire small community of Canadian Sikhs collected money and provisions and eventually raised \$70,000 (an astronomical sum at the time) to feed and support the refugees and challenge the government in court.

Unfortunately, on July 23, the ship was eventually forced to return to India where they were feared to be anti-British agitators. Twenty were killed when police fired upon those who protested.

The Komogata Maru incident is remembered, as is the Chinese Head Tax, as an example of an unfortunate time in Canada's history when a person's race determined their fitness to immigrate to Canada.

game, it's not on this man's radar."

Dhaliwal was commenting on the book the Prime Minister is apparently writing on hockey in Canada. It was frequently mentioned during the campaign as evidence that Harper was in touch with the lives and cultural interests of ordinary Canadians.

"Though I applaud the efforts made to address the grave injustice of the Chinese Head Tax, an effort that began with a Liberal government, the Komogata Maru incident was unjust also," Dhaliwal added, "and some injustices are not more equal than others."



Have You Visited Our Web Site?  
[www.SukhDhaliwal.ca](http://www.SukhDhaliwal.ca)

Our website is a great way to keep up-to date with Federal issues in Newton-North Delta and in Ottawa. There are also links to programs and services that our constituents will feel valuable.

- Community Resources:
  - ◆ How to obtain the Child Care Benefit
  - ◆ How to apply for the Child Tax Benefit
  - ◆ How to apply for a Passport
  - ◆ Applying for Employment Insurance Benefits
  - ◆ Qualifying for Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence
  - ◆ More resources from Federal, Provincial, Municipal and Volunteer organizations
- Constituency Map: Boundaries and statistics.
- Events Calendar: Community events that you can attend
- Photo Gallery: Can you spot yourself at a community event?
- Our Featured Volunteer: See how to nominate someone who deserves recognition
- News Articles: Sukh Dhaliwal in the news.
- Publications: Media releases, announcements and newsletters updated regularly.
- Helpful Links and Resources: Web site links to the Parliament of Canada sites, Federal Government departments and program resources.

"I hope that this website will be yet another conduit by which we can communicate. It will be regularly updated with events happening in the riding and with news articles that concern the businesses, individuals and families of Newton - North Delta."

"I encourage you to give me feedback on how I can better serve your needs. Please feel free to contact me and share your ideas."

*Sukh*



## Sukh Dhaliwal

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