

Martha Hall Findlay, MP for Willowdale

June, 2008

Friends and Residents of Willowdale,

First and foremost—thank you so much for your support, and for electing me as your federal Member of Parliament for Willowdale. Since the by-election in March, it has been a very interesting three months in Ottawa. I was very pleased to have been appointed Associate Finance Critic by the Leader of the Opposition, Stéphane Dion. In that capacity I sit on the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, and as such we have been dealing with fundamental issues facing our economy. Unlike Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, who suggested that Ontario was “the last place to invest”, I am very positive about the economic prospects for Ontario, and of course Willowdale, and have already been working hard to promote solid economic policies. We are currently facing uncertain economic times, however, and Canada needs strong leadership so that our business sector – be it small business, entrepreneurs or larger companies – can continue to flourish and compete globally. I am confident in providing that strong leadership for Willowdale.

I also sit as a full Member of the House of Commons Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. This is particularly important for my representation of your interests here in Willowdale—we all know that traffic congestion is a problem, and that we must have significantly more investment in infrastructure—particularly public transit. With the dramatic increase in condominium and other high rise living in Willowdale, and the correspondent increase in population, this was a key campaign issue for me. I am very pleased that my role in Ottawa allows me to focus specifically on these issues—indeed, urging the government to invest more in infrastructure was a key component of

my maiden speech in the House of Commons: “For the benefit of both current and future generations we urged the government ... to provide an immediate additional \$7 billion injection into the infrastructure needs of the nation. Our wonderful country has incredible potential, but we need investment in infrastructure [which is] critical for our future productivity and global competitiveness.”

The House of Commons does not sit for the summer months, but that does not mean the work is done! On June 19th, Stéphane Dion, Official Leader of the Opposition, launched our exciting new economic and environmental policy platform called The Green Shift. The plan involves reducing taxes on the things we like, and want more of—reducing taxes on income (that means less tax for all of us), and on investment and innovation. To pay for this and to help the environment at the same time, the plan calls for shifting those taxes to the things we don’t want, like pollution and waste. For more detailed information, please visit www.thegreenshift.ca . Tackling the challenge of climate change and pollution, while doing the right thing economically, particularly for low and middle-income earners---it’s a bold but sound plan whose time has come.

I am personally very excited about the Green Shift, and as Associate Finance Critic have been asked to be one of our Liberal Party’s spokespeople in delivering this message to Canadians. I will deliver great things for Willowdale. I am not alone...many economists and environmentalists all support a carbon shift approach.

If you want to share your thoughts with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at our Willowdale office. Our telephone number is 416-223-2858 and our email address is HallFindlay.M@parl.gc.ca.

Have a great, green summer!