

*Martha Hall Findlay, MP for Willowdale
Hi-Rise, July, 2008*

Friends and Residents of Willowdale,

Let me start by saying thank you for your support during the by-election and these first three months as your Member of Parliament. A lot of work has been done since March 17th. I have been working hard to represent your views in the House of Commons, as well as working to better our economy in my post as Associate Finance critic.

Part of my job as Associate Finance critic involves working with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. In this committee I work with other MPs, from across the country and across party lines, to make sure that our economy remains strong and prosperous.

We are currently facing uncertain economic times. Canada needs strong leadership so our business sector – be it small business, entrepreneurs or larger companies – can continue to flourish and compete globally. I am providing that strong leadership for Willowdale.

In my maiden House of Commons speech, I asked the government to reconsider its fiscal plan for Canada, as it did not provide any financial help for our failing infrastructure: “For the benefit of both current and future generations we urge the government, rather than pay the full \$10 billion allocated to debt pay down, to pay down the debt by \$3 billion and to provide an immediate \$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.”

Infrastructure is a key issue for such a highly populated city like Toronto, so I am very passionate about it. I am also a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities; here I am able to continue to ensure that the government provide the necessary resources for our city.

Now the House is out, but the work is far from being done. I am very excited for the upcoming summer months. On June 19th, Stéphane Dion, Official Leader of the Opposition, launched an exciting new economic and environmental policy platform called The Green Shift. The plan involves taxing the things we don't want, like pollution and waste, and reducing taxes on things we want more of, like income and innovation.

I believe the Green Shift will deliver great things for Willowdale, and I am not alone in my enthusiasm. The plan has been acclaimed by a number of prominent Canadian economists and environmentalists.

Don Drummond, Chief Economist of Toronto Dominion Bank, has said about the Green Shift: "The idea itself is very sensible...There is a growing consensus to do something about emissions. We need to put a price on carbon. This proposes it." By being revenue neutral, it is a fiscally responsible plan that will help us shift our consumption habits so our society can be richer, fairer and greener.

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!