

Op Ed, Town Crier and Hi-Rise

THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND MP'S EXPENSES

Martha Hall Findlay - MP, Willowdale

June, 2010

As many of you know, there has been some controversy over the request by the Auditor General to conduct a performance audit of Parliament, including MPs' and Senators' expenses. I want all of you to know that, right from the beginning, I have fully supported the Auditor General's request. I am also proud that the Liberal Party officially asked the Auditor General to meet with the Board to determine an appropriate way forward.

I have committed a large part of my work as your Member of Parliament to ensure that your taxpayer money is spent by this Government responsibly, effectively and transparently. I know that you expect the same standard of your elected representatives. I agree with you, and I have encouraged this to happen.

Improving Question Period / Improving Parliament

Many people are turned off politics because they see politicians behaving badly, heckling in Question Period, and never actually answering questions. (I am glad to say that I am one of the ones who doesn't heckle.) I am very pleased, therefore, that Michael Chong (MP for Wellington—Halton Hills) has put forward a motion in the House of Commons proposing changes to Question Period to improve the process and to make it more effective. I am proud to say that I "seconded" his Motion. Although Michael Chong and I are in different parties, we both agree on the need to improve Question Period, and to improve

the process of Parliament. I am now working with Michael, and others, to encourage all MPs, of all parties, to support this effort.

My work as your MP

Being your Member of Parliament is like being two people, one for each of Willowdale and Ottawa. My first priority is you, the residents of Willowdale. Whether you have questions about an immigration issue, are getting a passport, have questions about Canadian Citizenship, have an issue with another federal government department, or have questions, comments or suggestions about the Government of Canada and/or the work we do, we are there for you. And I say “we”, because we have a great team of people. My other responsibilities are more nationwide. As Opposition Critic for Public Works and Government Services, I sit on both the House of Commons Standing Committee on Government Operations and the Finance Committee. My focus is on keeping the Government to account on how it spends your taxpayer dollars. I also work on policy to enhance our economic prosperity, while requiring fiscal prudence, and I review other legislation affecting issues such as foreign policy and trade, social programs, immigration, education, the environment—all in a way that reflects your best interests, and those of all Canadians. It is truly an honour and a privilege to be your representative in Parliament. Please do not hesitate to write or call us, or why not stop by to say hello? 145 Sheppard Ave. W., 416-223-2858, HallFindlay.M@parl.gc.ca

Happy Canada Day!

On July 1, I hope that each one of us takes the opportunity to celebrate, with family and friends, this wonderful country. We are blessed with resources and people who, together, have created a country of prosperity, diversity and opportunity. Let us celebrate, together, our extraordinary history, our exciting present, and our future filled with potential.