

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament Set to Begin Amid Heightened Election Speculation

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced on September 4 that he would prorogue, or terminate, the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of

### SEATS BY POLITICAL PARTY AS 39<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT RESUMES

Conservatives	126
Liberals	96
Bloc Québécois	49
New Democratic Party	30
Independent	3
Vacant	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>

the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament and begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the current Parliament with a Speech from the Throne on October 16. Politically, September was marked by election speculation as the

Prime Minister took a harder line in dealings with the opposition parties. PM Harper threatened to hold confidence votes at every opportunity once Parliament resumes in an effort to challenge the Official Opposition to defeat the government and force a general election. The Prime Minister's more forceful tone, uncharacteristic for a minority government leader, arises from encouraging results for the Conservatives in Quebec by-elections held in mid-September and from increased disunity within the Liberal Party, especially in Quebec.

## New Parliamentary Secretaries and Opposition Critics Named

On October 10, Prime Minister Harper announced changes to the ranks of his government's Parliamentary Secretaries. Parliamentary Secretaries are government MPs whose role is to assist cabinet ministers with their parliamentary duties. Under the direction of their ministers, parliamentary secretaries handle routine matters in the House of Commons, engage in committee work, and assume some

extra-parliamentary responsibilities. They act as a link between Ministers and Parliamentarians.

The following appointments are significant to credit union system government relations work in Ottawa:

### Ted Menzies, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Macleod, AB)

Mr. Menzies was first elected to the House of Commons in 2004 and was re-elected in 2006. Most recently, he served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation and Minister for La Francophonie and Official Languages. Mr. Menzies was also president of the Canadian Agri-Food and Trade Alliance and vice-president of the Grain Growers of Canada. He has owned and operated a farm in Claresholm, Alberta, for over 30 years. Mr. Menzies replaces Diane Ablonczy (Calgary - Nose Hill, AB). Ms. Ablonczy was named Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism) during the most recent Cabinet shuffle in mid-August.



### FALL AGENDA

**Credit Union Day**  
Thursday, October 18

**Ag Sub-Committee Mtg**  
Canadian Central Office  
(Ottawa) November 8

**Legislative Affairs  
Committee Meeting**  
Fairmont Château  
Laurier (Ottawa)  
November 20

**Parliamentary Reception**  
Commonwealth Room,  
Parliament Hill (Ottawa)  
November 20

**Finance Committee  
Pre-Budget Appearance,**  
Parliament Hill (Ottawa)  
TBA

### Guy Lauzon, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and for the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry, ON)

Mr. Lauzon was first elected to the House of Commons in June 2004 and was re-elected in 2006. Mr. Lauzon worked as the General Manager of Tri-County Protein Corp in Winchester, ON. Previously, he worked at Domtar, Courtaulds and Metropolitan Life Insurance. Mr. Lauzon replaces David Anderson (Cypress Hills-Grasslands, SK). Mr. Anderson was named Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources and for the Canadian Wheat Board.





**Brian Pallister, M.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Minister of International Trade  
and to the Minister of  
International Co-operation**  
(Portage-Lisgar, MB)

Mr. Pallister was elected to the House of Commons in 2000 and re-elected in 2004 and 2006. He was most recently Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (note: a new Finance Committee Chair will be elected once Parliament resumes in mid-October). Mr. Pallister has a good knowledge of the credit union system having met with Canadian Central representatives on several occasions. Mr. Pallister has also served in provincial politics. He was a member of the Manitoba Legislature from 1992 to 1997 and was appointed Minister of Government Services in 1995.

**Thomas Mulcair, M.P. named New Democratic Party  
Finance Critic** (Outremont, QC)

On September 27, NDP Leader Jack Layton announced changes to his Shadow Cabinet. Of most significance for credit unions, newly elected Quebec MP Tom Mulcair was appointed his party's critic for Finance. Mr. Mulcair replaces Judy Wasylycia-Leis (Winnipeg North,



MB). Ms. Wasylycia-Leis was named NDP caucus chair and Critic for Health and Persons with Disabilities. Mr. Mulcair was also appointed Deputy Leader and critic for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec. Previously, he was the Member of the National Assembly of Quebec for the riding of Chomedey in Laval from 1994 to 2007. He served as the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks from 2003 until 2006. Mr. Mulcair graduated from McGill University in 1977 with degrees in law and civil law. He was named to the Quebec Bar in 1979. He taught courses in civil law at Concordia University in Montreal in 1984 and also taught at the Saint Lawrence Campus of Champlain Regional College in Sainte-Foy. Mr. Mulcair's maternal great-grandfather was former Quebec Premier Honoré Mercier.

**Indian Residential Schools Settlement Payout**

On September 19, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement came into force. The Settlement Agreement sets out the terms and conditions for the payment of restitution to former students of Indian Residential Schools. The Settlement Agreement stipulates that \$1.9 billion be set aside for the direct benefit of former Indian Residential School students. Subject to verification, each eligible former student who applies will receive \$10,000 as well as an additional \$3,000 for each year of residence beyond the first year. It is expected the average payment will be about \$28,000.

On the same date, the Federal Government began to accept applications for restitution from survivors of residential schools. As of that date and - and upon application, - a "Common Experience Payment" will be paid to every eligible former student who resided at a recognized Indian Residential School, and was living on May 30, 2005. It is expected that the government will be receiving thousands of applications from survivors in the coming months and the government is aiming to issue cheques to survivors six weeks after receiving a completed application. A ceremonial Common Experience cheque was issued late in September. It is expected that general issuance of Common Experience cheques will begin in late October.

The government anticipates that there will be approximately 80,100 residential school survivors eligible for compensation. In terms of breakdown they anticipate that there will be roughly 1,200 in the Atlantic region, 11,000 in Québec, 9,800 in Ontario, 8,500 Manitoba, 14,600 in Saskatchewan, 10,700 in Alberta, 13,900 in British Columbia and 6,100 in the Territories.

Further information about the Common Experience Payment has been communicated to Canadian Central's Legislative Affairs Committee and the provincial communicators group.

## Federal Government Announces New Plan to Combat on Identity Theft

On October 2, the Federal Government announced it will introduce new legislation to further combat identity theft when Parliament resumes in mid-October. The draft legislation will propose Criminal Code amendments “that will permit police to intervene at an earlier stage of criminal operations, before identity fraud or other crimes which actually cause financial or other harms are attempted or committed.” While the draft legislation is not available at present, the stated intent of the proposal has been supported by Canadian Central in the past. Canadian Central will circulate the draft legislation to the Legislative Affairs Committee once it is tabled in Parliament. The Government’s announcement along with background information may be found at:

[http://www.justice.gc.ca/en/news/nr/2007/doc\\_32151.html](http://www.justice.gc.ca/en/news/nr/2007/doc_32151.html)

## Registered Disability Savings Plan Draft Legislative Proposals Unveiled

On October 1, the Federal Government released draft legislative proposals to implement the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) announced in Budget 2007. When implemented, the legislative proposals will help persons with severe disabilities, and their families, save for their financial future. Under the new measure, individuals who qualify for the disability tax credit, or their parents or other legal guardian, will be able to establish an RDSP. RDSPs will be eligible to receive payments of the new Canada Disability Savings Grants (CDSGs) and, for low- and modest-income beneficiaries, Canada Disability Savings Bonds (CDSBs). The proposals include amendments to the Income Tax Act and Income Tax Regulations dealing primarily with the establishment of RDSPs. They also introduce the Canada Disability Savings Act, which will be administered by Human Resources and Social Development Canada and would provide for payment into RDSPs of the new CDSGs and CDSBs. The draft proposals, overview and explanatory notes may be viewed at: <http://www.fin.gc.ca/news07/07-074e.html>

## Mark Carney Appointed Governor of Bank of Canada

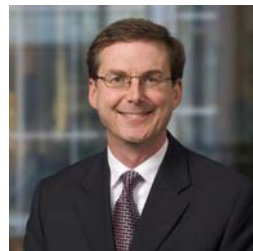


On October 4, the Minister of Finance, Jim Flaherty, announced the Governor in Council approval of Mark Carney as the next Governor of the Bank of Canada. Mr. Carney is currently Senior Associate Deputy Minister of Finance and G-7 Deputy of Canada. His seven-year term as Governor of the Bank of Canada is

effective February 1, 2008. Mr. Carney replaces Governor David Dodge, who is retiring after a long career in the public service. Governor Dodge indicated in April that he did not intend to seek a second term. Mr. Carney will join the Bank of Canada on November 1, 2007 as Advisor to the Governor, a position he will occupy until he assumes his duties as Governor. A full biography of Mr. Carney may be viewed at:

<http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/bios/carney.html>

## Tiff Macklem Appointed Associate Deputy Minister of Finance



On October 11, the Prime Minister announced, among other changes to the senior ranks of the public service, that Tiff Macklem will become Associate Deputy Minister of Finance, effective November 1. Mr.

Macklem has been a Deputy Governor at the Bank of Canada since 2004. Between 2003 and 2004, he was General Director, Financial Sector Policy Branch at the Department of Finance. He has held various senior positions at the Bank of Canada since 1984. Mr. Macklem holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Western Ontario.

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## GOVERNMENT BILLS THAT DIED ON THE ORDER PAPER

### House of Commons

- C-6 Aviation Safety Bill (third reading)
- C-7 Military Justice Bill (second reading)
- C-20 Airports and Transportation Appeal Tribunal Bill (second reading)
- C-21 Firearms Centre and Gun Registry Bill (second reading)
- C-27 Repeat Offenders Bill (committee)
- C-29 Air Canada Public Participation Act (second reading)
- C-30 Clean Air Act (report)
- C-32 Impaired Driving Bill (report)
- C-41 Competition Act (second reading)
- C-43 Senate Elections Bill (second reading)
- C-44 First Nations Human Rights Bill (committee)
- C-45 Seacoast and Inland Fisheries Sustainable Development Bill (second reading)
- C-53 Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States Convention Bill (committee)
- C-54 Loan Accountability Bill (report)
- C-55 Extra Advanced Voting Days Bill (committee)
- C-56 Expanding House Seats Bill (second reading)

- C-57 Foreign Nationals Working in Canada Bill (committee)
- C-58 Railway Transportation Bill (committee)
- C-63 Compensation for Nuclear Damage Bill (second reading)
- C-64 Pilotage Bill (committee)

### Senate

- S-4 Senate Tenure Bill (awaiting Supreme Court of Canada ruling)
- C-10 Minimum Sentences for Firearms Crimes Bill (second reading)
- C-22 Age of Sexual Protection Bill (second reading)
- C-23 Criminal Procedure Bill (second reading)
- C-33 Income Tax Bill (second reading)
- C-35 Reverse Onus Bail Hearings Bill (second reading)
- C-51 Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement Bill (committee)
- C-62 Wage Earner Protection Program Bill (second reading)

## GOVERNMENT BILLS PASSED IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE 39<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT

- C-2 Federal Accountability Act
- S-2 Hazardous Materials Information Review Act
- C-3 International Bridges and Tunnels Bill
- S-3 Military Sex Offenders Bill
- C-4 Elections Canada Act Mandatory Review
- C-5 Public Health Agency of Canada Bill
- S-5 Tax Conventions Implementation Act
- S-6 First Nations Land Management Act
- C-8 Money for the Public Service of Canada
- C-9 Conditional Sentencing Bill
- C-11 Transportation and Railway Safety Act
- C-12 Emergency Management Bill
- C-14 Adoption Bill
- C-13 Budget Implementation Bill
- C-15 Agricultural Marketing Programs Act
- C-16 Fixed Election Date Bill
- C-17 Judges' Salary and Benefits Bill
- C-18 DNA Identification Bill
- C-19 Street Racing Bill
- C-24 Softwood Lumber Bill
- C-25 Proceeds of Crime and Terrorist Financing Act Bill
- C-26 Pay Day Loans Bill
- C-28 Second Budget Implementation Act
- C-31 Voter Identification Bill
- C-37 Financial Institutions Bill
- C-34 First Nations Education in B.C. Bill
- C-38 Supplementary Estimates Implementation Bill
- C-39 Second Supplementary Estimates Implementation Bill
- C-40 Air Travellers Security Charge Act
- C-42 Amending the Quarantine Act
- C-46 Railway Back to Work Bill
- C-47 2010 Olympic Games Trademark Bill
- C-48 UN Anti-Corruption Bill
- C-49 2006-2007 Supplementary Estimates Bill
- C-50 2007-2008 Main Estimates Bill
- C-52 Budget Implementation Bill
- C-59 Unauthorized Recording of a Movie Bill
- C-60 Main Estimates
- C-61 Red Cross Society Trademark Bill

Source: *The Hill Times* (Monday October 8, 2007 No. 908)

