

# 10 YEARS ON THE HILL



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

- **Edmonton East Boundary**
- **Political Update**
- **A Challenge For The Future**
- **History of Parliamentary Involvement**

When you first gave me your trust and sent me to Ottawa to represent you in 1997 I couldn't imagine how quickly the time would pass. Through four elections over the past 10 years I have been honoured to serve the people of Edmonton East in Parliament. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and bring you up to date on the work I and the Conservative government of Stephen Harper have been doing for you.

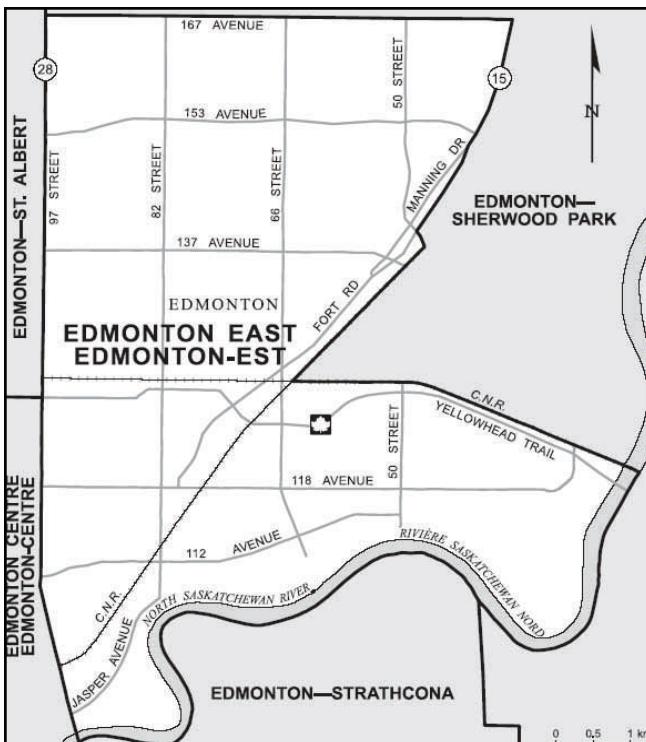
Since being elected in January 2006 the Conservative government has delivered on its promises. We have reached an agreement with the provinces on patient wait times. We have introduced the Federal Accountability Act in order to restore Canadians' trust and confidence in government – and to make sure that another spon-

sorship-type scandal wasting millions of your dollars doesn't happen. We promised to strengthen democracy, and with new legislation we have introduced Alberta will have four more seats in Parliament, we will have fixed federal election dates and the Senate will be overhauled to make it more accountable.

Tax breaks for individuals and families have put more money in your pocket where it belongs, including the cut to the GST we promised in the election campaign.

As Canadians, blessed with one of the most beautiful countries in the world, we have always had a love for nature and the environment. How we treat that environment may become the issue for which our generation is remembered. Canada's New Government is committed to preserving and protecting our environmental legacy by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, by reducing pollution and encouraging 'green' alternatives. Our

ecoENERGY initiatives are encouraging all Canadians to do their part for the environment, not to expect the government to do it for them.



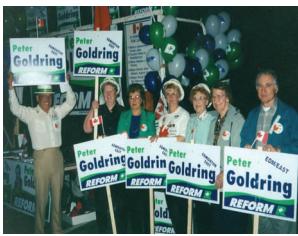
*The Boundaries of Edmonton East*



All things have a beginning. Concerned about the drastic change in the polls in the days leading to the 1995 Quebec referendum, and despite warnings of trouble, Peter decided to visit Quebec City with Lorraine for a holiday but also to see for themselves what was happening to Canadian unity. What he saw disturbed him and caused him to dedicate his future to working for Canada

On the first anniversary of the referendum, as chair of Special Committee for Canadian Unity of Western Canada, Peter, in spite of warnings of possible trouble, arranged for a group of 10 people to fly from Edmonton to Montreal to board a special Unity Train bound for Quebec City. They marched with thousands of other Canadians to the Chateau Frontenac for a huge rally that confirmed that all Canadians support unity.

Following the Quebec Referendum Peter organized the Western Canada Branch of the Special Committee For Canadian Unity. He asked for and received special permission of the Alberta Legislature in 1996 for himself, Lorraine, and others to promote the important message of unity on the Legislature grounds in Edmonton then and every Canada Day since to countless tens of thousands over the years.



Peter's first electoral win was with the Reform Party. Since 1917, Edmonton East has been represented by every party in Western Canada including Liberal, NDP, Social Credit, Progressive and Progressive Conservative. Bill Skoreyko served 21 years, much longer than the five year average. One of Alberta's oldest ridings, Edmonton East contains both modest inner city areas and modern suburbs



With radio host Howard Galganov, Peter protested at the unveiling of a Quebec City monument of World War II leaders that ignored Canada's leader. Peter had the DND cancel a military band. The Lt. Governor canceled and Peter ordered away senior officers in attendance. When the speech began Peter stood in front to deliver his condemnation of Premier Bouchard's insult to Canadian war veterans and a former Prime Minister.



More than a thousand Quebecers came to Parliament Hill asking Peter to speak to their gathering and represent them to present a 17,000 name petition in the House of Commons calling for Parliament to only legislate with equality for all as the prerequisite. Quebecers want Canadian unity with equality for all, not distinction for some.



In 1998 Peter raised more than \$200,000 in donations from 35,000 Canadians to send veterans to Ortona, Italy for an internationally recognized historical event to recreate their wartime front line Christmas dinner of 1943, sharing this time with their former adversaries. As well, a permanent bronze monument the "Price of Peace" created by artist Robert Surette, was installed in Ortona the following year to very significant local acclaim.



Peter successfully fought for Canada's Hong Kong veterans, whose concerns about being forced into slave labour by Japan in World War II had never been fully addressed. In Parliament he read the names of all 361 surviving veterans, a speech reprinted on Canada Day 1999 in the Ottawa Citizen, and encouraged the government to settle. When they did Peter called for the Liberals to now "send the bill to Tokyo."

Canada's Merchant Navy veterans had long standing, unresolved grievances until Peter took up their cause. All parties agreed to his list of concerns, leading to a settlement announced in February 2000. Upon Merchant Navy Veteran Gordon Olmstead's death, Peter called on Parliament to recognize his life-long efforts by renaming the Bill the Gordon Olmstead Act. Mr. Olmstead is seen here on the far right.



In May 2000, at Peter's insistence, an inspection tour of the Vimy Ridge Memorial was conducted. The examination revealed an appalling lack of structural repair over many years that resulted in the absolute necessity for major overhaul. Peter called for immediate repairs to the Memorial, which have now been carried out. The Vimy Ridge Memorial now stands resplendent as it was when first built in 1936.



Peter Goldring was honoured to receive from veteran Maurice White of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment a plaque for his dedication to veterans and his support of the regiment and museum. Members of the Loyal Eddies took part in a retake of their Christmas Dinner of 1943 in Ortona, Italy, in 1998. The Loyal Edmonton Regiment has proudly served Canada and the Edmonton community since World War 1.



While inspecting the closed Maple Leaf plant Peter found a dusty crusty plaque, due to be trashed with the building's demolition, honouring Swifts company employees who served Canada during the World Wars and Korea. He called Michael McCain for permission and arranged with the Alberta government to have the plaque salvaged and refurbished and presented it to the Norwood Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion



Peter was part of the official delegation that went to France to repatriate the remains of the Unknown Soldier, who was interred in Ottawa in the base of the National War Memorial. Soil from Alberta was added to that from all other provinces and placed in the tomb. Mr. Goldring said that Canada's War Memorial now "glows more warmly" with the presence of Canada's 'Unknown Soldier.'



Being a Member of Parliament means being involved in the community, and sometimes that means you roll up your sleeves and help out. Peter gets a large number of requests to attend community functions, far more than he can accept given timing and his Parliamentary duties. Some of the requests, such as the annual Alberta Avenue clean up and Fort Road Business Association dinner, involve more than just speaking.



Peter came to the aid of Edmonton's Skidrow Dogz ball hockey team. Their home, the McCauley Community Hockey Rink faced destruction, as a social project was planned to replace this only full-size rink in the inner city. He helped in raising funds for the team to attend the World Championships in Florida. The Skidrow Dogz went to their tournament in Florida and the McCauley Community Hockey Rink is still a popular inner city sports facility.



After 30 years of working in the construction related industry, Peter has gained invaluable expertise and knowledge into multiple unit housing construction possibilities that can be geared for affordable housing to reduce the appalling number of homeless persons forced to live in shelters and on the street. In Parliament he has been a constant advocate for Canada's homeless community.



Peter Goldring is the Member of Parliament for the riding of Edmonton East. This list chronicles Peter's involvement in parliamentary, committee, and critic duties from 1997 to present.

- Senior Critic for Veterans Affairs - 3 years
- Deputy Critic, Intergovernmental Affairs and Official Languages - 1 year
- Member of Joint Senate/House Constitution Committee - Quebec Schools
- Member of Joint Senate/House Constitution Committee - Newfoundland Schools
- Member of Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs
- Deputy Critic for National Defence and also Public Works - 1 year
- Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs
- Senior Critic for Public Works and Government Services - 1 year
- Critic for Housing, Homelessness, and Poverty - 3 years
- Vice-Chair of the Canada-Caribbean Parliamentary Friendship Group
- Chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group
- Member Human Rights and International Development Committee - 1 year
- Foreign Affairs Committee - present
- Chair of Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament—present



"I would like to receive your input on issues you think I should focus on in this minority parliament, what you think of the work I've done in the past and any general comments you may have. As you know, an election could be held any time and I would encourage one and all to get involved in this democratic process. Do not take democracy for granted. Vote for your political choice on election day!"

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*This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.*

#### What Issues Matter Most To You

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors' Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defence         | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education       | <input type="checkbox"/> Crime              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care     | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxes              |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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