



**Turks and Caicos Proposed Future  
with Canada at the United Nations**

**CANADA'S ATLANTIC TRADE**

**WITH THE CARIBBEAN**

**A Platform Approach**

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**MAY 2015**





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

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THE CARIBBEAN:  
A PLATFORM APPROACH**

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May 2015

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**CANADA'S ATLANTIC TRADE AND THE**  
**CARIBBEAN RIM OF COUNTRIES:**  
**A PLATFORM APPROACH**

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**Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal.**

# **CANADA'S ATLANTIC TRADE WITH THE CARIBBEAN RIM OF COUNTRIES**

## **A PLATFORM APPROACH**

### **Executive Summary**

**May 2015**

Globalization and a shifting geopolitical landscape are changing the dynamics of international relations and providing new opportunities for Canada. An important region with great economic and strategic potential that should be of growing interest to Canada is the Caribbean. Canada should work with a willing partner country in the region to establish a Canadian “platform”, possibly a deep water port location combined with a regional Foreign Trade Zone to create a regional distribution centre for greater economic engagement to enhance trade and investment. A Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) is a designated area, which, for customs purposes, is considered outside the country of origin. Such an initiative will not only generate growth in Atlantic Canada, but will enhance Canada’s strategic and economic relations with this important part of the world.

The geographic proximity of Canada and the Caribbean, within an increasingly interconnected global marketplace, translates into a number of shared interests. In this respect, Canada has a tremendous opportunity to foster closer working relationships with the Caribbean island nations. Moreover, Canada’s reputation as a peacekeeping nation resonates well in the Caribbean and would benefit future initiatives and constructive relations. Last year, Canada replaced Spain to become the third largest foreign investor in the Americas and, as the Canadian economy continues to thrive, the time is appropriate for further investment in the region.

The benefits of increased economic and political relations in the Caribbean are many, and the disadvantages few. Perhaps the most striking benefit to Canada is the fact that, given the geographical proximity of the Caribbean and Canada’s rising economic potential, this is an area where Canada can, and should have real and demonstrative influence. Other benefits to an improved Atlantic Canada–Caribbean trading and economic development association include:

- Improved access to Caribbean markets and global supply chains;

- Improved strategic position with other trade and economic development competitors;
- Closer association with the region for the promotion of democracy, good governance and a dispersal of humanitarian aid;
- Enhanced hemispheric security and efforts against organized crime.

Among the island nations that have expressed an interest in establishing closer economic and political ties with Canada is the island nation of the Turks and Caicos. Several times over the past 25 years, the Turks and Caicos Islands have approached Canada in the hope of joining confederation. Their interests demonstrate a strong wish for a closer economic association with Canada, though not necessarily now for Confederation. The Turks and Caicos Islands have a population of approximately 25,000 and are among the fastest growing economies in the Caribbean. Increasing political and economic ties with this enterprising island chain would be a tremendous opportunity for the inhabitants of these islands to diversify their economy and for Canada to partner in regional economic growth and development. Today, the majority of Turks and Caicos Islanders are supportive of Canada and would be interested in cooperating with Canada in the region. Benefits for the Turks and Caicos and the Caribbean include:

- Economic partnerships for prosperity and diversification;
- Expansion of technological manufacturing and development;
- Potential favorable trade associations;
- Stronger relations with Canada and the international community;
- Possible development assistance for major infrastructure projects.

Today, there is a tremendous opportunity for Canada to re-establish its traditional, respected trading partner status with the Caribbean. This region has enormous economic and strategic potential and should be a priority for Canadian policy makers and businesses alike. The Caribbean is a very receptive and Canada friendly region that will return much in terms of long term economic stability. Facilitating trade and investment would be an important first step in addressing important economic and humanitarian issues. By reaching out and expanding economic and political relations with the Caribbean, Canada will be contributing to global peace and security, while securing its own interests in the years ahead.

**Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament, Edmonton East**

# **CANADA'S ATLANTIC TRADE WITH THE CARIBBEAN RIM OF COUNTRIES**

**May 2015**

## **A PLATFORM APPROACH**

### **SUMMARY**

This paper advocates for the establishment in the Caribbean region by Canada of a trading platform that would better act as focal points for trade and investment from Canada. This Canadian platform would comprise of land space, a deep water port and a tax and duty free regional Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in a secure, stable host country. A Free Trade Zone is a designated areas which for customs purposes is considered outside the country it is located in. If this platform is strategically located, the Canadian Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, and Atlantic Maritime ports would be well-placed to benefit from the increased shipping that would result from new and renewed commercial ties. Furthermore, by focusing on a specific "in region" trade and distribution platform FTZ, Canada will also be better able to engage and enhance democratic development in the region along with the stability and prosperity that comes with increased commerce.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The federal government is responsible for pursuing Canada's interests in international commerce and for positioning Canada to compete and prosper in the global economy. There is much talk of the benefits that the Pacific Gateway trade initiative to and from Asia can bring to the Canadian West Coast; however, an outward-looking perspective on global commerce that benefits the country from coast to coast must also take advantage of the Atlantic ports. In addition, our commerce strategy should add to global well-being by enhancing economic relationships with emerging democracies or democracies with fragile economies. The trade and investment that comes with strengthened commercial ties would contribute to the prosperity and stability of these states.

The Port of Halifax, which could be a greatly increased trade gateway to Caribbean Rim countries' markets, is operating at 60% capacity due to reliance on declining shipping to and from Europe. In 2005, Maersk Sealand, one of the world's largest shipping companies, dropped Halifax from its Mediterranean-Atlantic route. To compensate for decreased traffic and to utilize underused capacity, the Maritime Port Authority has been trying to encourage increased shipping from the booming economies in Asia, especially China, without much success. Canada's West Coast is a much more likely destination for Asian shipping. Furthermore, any shipping that travels through the Panama Canal is just as likely to unload cargo in the Caribbean.

The refocusing a Great Lakes and Atlantic Gateway trade with the Caribbean Rim of countries advocated for in this paper proffers the prospect of increased shipping activity through the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and our East Coast ports. Canada would increase Atlantic shipping by partnering with a selected country in the Caribbean such as St. Lucia, the Turks and Caicos or both, to create a Canadian transshipping and administrative platform FTZ in the region. A Caribbean regional platform would connect trade and investment between Central America, Latin America, North America, as well as through the Panama Canal.

## **AN ATLANTIC CARRIBEAN COMMERCE HUB**

There is much room for growth in Canada-Caribbean commerce. At present, only 6% of the shipping activities from the Port of Halifax currently involve Canadian-Caribbean trade. Very little Canadian consumer goods reach Caribbean store shelves, despite there being 100 million consumers and extensive Canadian tourism in the region. There are many reasons and considerations why Canada should specifically reengage with the Caribbean commercially, politically, democratically and humanitarially:

- The Caribbean's strategic location in relation to South American markets and global supply chains;
- The historic trade and immigration links between Canada and the region;
- Economic opportunities for partnerships;
- Haiti –democracy, aid, and trade;
- The China's growing commercial and political influence in the region;
- Cuba;
- Venezuela;
- Guyana;
- Humanitarian purposes;
- Eastern Caribbean: Barbados – Grenada - St. Lucia - Dominica
- CARICOM;
- Western hemispheric trade;
- Caribbean Diaspora engagement;
- England - France - European Union - CARICOM – OAS-US

## **STRATEGIC LOCATION**

The reality of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is that the world's traditional trade routes have shifted. Trade for Canada with and through the United States is more challenging, due to border security concerns and geopolitical influences. Canada needs to reengage aggressively in foreign market development. Success in the economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires firms to be a part of global supply chains. The Caribbean's strategic location between North and South America and along shipping routes through the Panama Canal, makes it a key link in these chains.

For Canada's full trade potential in the Caribbean to be realized, Canada should establish a partnership relationship with select Caribbean countries to seek a platform for distribution and trade. That would facilitate enhanced shipping from Canada and transshipment of Canadian goods throughout the region. Canada should consider making a significant investment, with select Caribbean partners, in the construction of deep water free trade ports as the central design to the platform.

## **CANADA-CARIBBEAN LINKS**

The distance between Canada and the "doorway" countries of the Caribbean is less than the distance from Ottawa to Edmonton. Canadians have long dealt with the logistics of shipping into distant (and very difficult) environments in our north and very long transport distances from east to west.

As well as geographic and climatic challenges, there are numerous commonalities between the regions. The most obvious is the common British and French heritage and languages that predominate in both. Many hundreds of thousands of Canadians trace their heritages to the Caribbean, and many Canadians each year flock to its sunny beaches and exotic resorts. During the Second World War, a heavy Canadian military presence garrisoned several islands in what was then the British West Indies. In more recent times, the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Royal Bank have been at the forefront of Canadian financial institutions operating in the region, as have other entrepreneurs such as Edmonton's Stanley Engineering Corporation which does extensive work in the Caribbean. The central point is that linkages already exist to be built upon.

## **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIPS**

Bananas comprise up to 50% of exports for some Caribbean island nations and recent calls by European countries to eliminate subsidies on banana exports could have a devastating impact on the region. This will put increasing pressure on the Caribbean to diversify its economy and seek alternative uses for banana crops.

As the Caribbean sets out to diversify its economy, there is a tremendous opportunity for Canadian businesses to engage the region and explore potential partnerships. One Canadian business, McCain Foods, has expressed such an interest. McCain's is a modern day plantation builder, contracting thousands of acres of potatoes and shipping them worldwide. Other Canadian businesses should explore similar possibilities as the Caribbean looks to expand its trading relations with other countries. Whatever the resolve and replacement crop may be, access to deep water shipping will play an important part in delivery of crops to market.

## **HAITI**

Canada is estimated to have provided some \$1billion in assistance to Haiti over the past ten years, and it is likely that this assistance will continue for the foreseeable future. Providing aid to Haiti has been a logistical challenge for Canada, yet these efforts were recently helped by the Turks & Caicos Islands as Canadian troops were permitted to stage their operations from there. At present, the situation in Haiti remains precarious. Crime and disorder continue to reap havoc on local populations and the Haitian government is losing its authority in lawless regions. A permanent platform on the Turks & Caicos Islands for Canada would greatly help Canadian aid efforts given their geographical proximity to Haiti.

## **THE TWO CHINAS IN THE CARIBBEAN**

Motivated by both political and economic factors, both Chinas are engaged in an extensive strategy to increase both political and economic influence in the region and for the all-important international vote of support at the United Nations. In recent years, several Caribbean nations have withdrawn longstanding support for Taiwan and adopted a "One China" policy in exchange for hundreds of millions in aid and infrastructure investment. China has been building schools and sports stadiums throughout the region and has built the palatial headquarters building for CARICOM in Guyana.

China's trade with the Caribbean increased by over 40% to \$2 billion dollars between 2003 and 2004, and has grown considerably since. As well, Chinese manufacturing firms view the islands as providers for their potential sea port, free trade, tax platforms for exporting to nearby North American and European markets. For example, China has considered Trinidad as a base for auto plants. For some years, China has had established a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) on St. Lucia and has had St. Lucia's political support internationally. However with the changed government recently in St. Lucia, the political support has turned back towards Taiwan.

## **CUBA**

When I was first writing of Canada's Caribbean initiative in 2004, Canada certainly was the favoured trader, but once again was being viewed as being not as active as it should. Since then much more intense focus has been implemented by the Conservative government, but still there can and should be more. I feel that the very positive message for Canada's broad based reengagement with Cuba is an appeal for more than just increased trade. One issue in particular from a trade and economic viewpoint is that Cuba would put increased deep-water shipping from Canada to the top of its lists of sought out reengagement with Canadian entrepreneurial traders. A Canadian operated nearby deep water trans-shipping platform Free Trade Zone such as on South Caicos Island would accommodate this interest. Additionally, many from several Caribbean countries have expressed concern for the region, that a post-Castro Cuba in isolation from international efforts to more broadly engage the Cuban economy may come under negatively overwhelming pressure by expatriates.

Canada would do well to begin aggressively promoting more economic engagement working towards that Caribbean platform of capability. This in itself might just give even Cuba some alternatives for future direction.

A Free Trade Zone platform for Canada in the region will have real strategic importance in whatever the future holds.

## **VENEZUELA**

Venezuela of course is using its regional trade currency, petroleum, for political influence in many Caribbean countries and exchanges petroleum with Cuba for doctors and medical teams, which is Cuba's regional goodwill trade currency. Several countries, such as St. Lucia, are compelled by economics and need to import Venezuela's petroleum which amounts to approximately ½ of all imports. Both Cuba and Venezuela are vying for influence in the region, but Cuba in particular, by sending medical teams, is creating good will and being well received.

## **GUYANA**

Having visited Guyana in 2006, the reality was that Georgetown, its capital, was caught in a political time warp from the 1960's when it became independent from England. After being the most prosperous in the Central and South Americas before independence, today it is, next to Haiti the second poorest economy in the Western hemisphere. Guyana is in need of democratic evolvement to move it from its racial based political system that has stalled the economy of this once prosperous nation. The recent election, the most peaceful in many years, gives hope for the future.

China has resource harvesting projects in Guyana with Chinese labour and is shipping all resources out of Guyana through Chinese developed ports to China. Guyana, of course, is the home of the headquarters of CARICOM and has a very large and modern convention centre thanks to China.

## **HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES**

A Canadian platform in the region would help with greatly improved humanitarian aid if and when it becomes necessary. Canada has historically responded to regional crises such as hurricanes with medical and other supplies. The platform could provide a regional headquarters and staging ground for the military's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART).

## **EASTERN CARIBBEAN: BARBADOS – GRENADA - ST. LUCIA-DOMINICA**

### **Barbados**

Barbados is one of the most established and economically diverse islands in the region. Barbados has a significant financial sector and an international shipping industry, in which Canada Steamship Lines is one of the many international participants flying the Barbadian flag. Barbados is also a well-known tourist destination for North Americans. While many Canadians line Barbadian beaches, Canadian products were not as abundant on Barbadian store shelves, which suggests great potential for Canadian economic and trade interests.

### **Grenada**

Grenada's largest export crop of nutmeg was wiped out by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004 with trees stripped or knocked over. Estimates of a ten year recovery period spell disaster for the island's agricultural exports. Venezuela has offered to rebuild schools, while in time insurance claims will help rebuild the resorts. Economic opportunities are vital to providing much needed future jobs and foreign income.

### **St. Lucia**

St. Lucia has some major economic concerns. The export economy is highly dependent on a primary crop: bananas. St. Lucia wishes to move towards diversification of the island's industry and economy to avoid the boom and bust economic cycles associated with poor crop yields and climatic devastations. Both St. Lucia and Dominica are facing catastrophic shutdowns of banana crop exports as the European Union removes the favoured trade status that the two countries had enjoyed, through their association with Great Britain. At the same time, competition with large Central American plantations will leave St. Lucia and Dominica with little or no remaining market, unless their major crop is either value added processed to other exportable items or replaced with other marketable export crops. St. Lucian officials have expressed great openness to Canadian business and trade interests, to help diversify the St. Lucian economy.

## **Dominica**

Dominica has similar economic concerns as St. Lucia, particularly with its banana crop exports with a greater need for economic diversification, due to an agricultural sector, which is highly vulnerable to international supply/demand issues and climatic conditions. It is said that no person need ever starve on Dominica, as there is an overabundance of food—so much so that various food items end up rotting on the plants, due to a lack of processing and shipping facilities, as well as a lack of developed export markets. There is a potential here for Dominican-Canadian joint ventures that would benefit both countries.

Dominica has a rocky, black volcanic sand beached coastline conducive to the “eco-tourism” field, for the more adventurous tourist wishing to explore its combination of rocky coastlines and lush tropical forests. At the same time, Dominica has particular economic advantages. Dominica produces half of its electric power requirements by hydro means and also has substantial geothermal power generation potential. While Dominica has many challenges, it also has great opportunities for Canadian interests, particularly in areas of product manufacturing and imports.

## **CARICOM**

In a meeting of the Canada Caribbean Parliamentary Association three years ago, it was raised unanimously by our guests, including High Commissioners’ from the Caribbean, that Canada is greatly encouraged to become much more engaged in the political and economic development of the Caribbean.

From the meeting, I drafted the letter to be forwarded from the chair asking the Canadian government to hold a CARICOM-Canada Conference (not held by Canada for more than 10 years). My understanding now is that there will be such a conference in the near future, which I encourage the organizers to include the following as essential conference components:

Business, trade and tourism representatives from the islands and from the Canadian business and shipping sector should be invited to participate.

Attention must be given to research carefully and develop the itinerary program that would encourage these sectors to become involved.

Particular attention should be given to the food development and processing sectors, the manufacturing sector, the deep water shipping, transportation, and ports sector and of course the financial sector.

## **WESTERN HEMISPHERIC TRADE**

While official emphasis of our government is very well known for the Asia- Pacific gateway initiative, the fact is that Canada's direct investment in the Caribbean region, at approximately \$40 billion, is ten per cent higher than for Asia and has the long captured good will of virtually all Caribbean countries with an open invitation to do much more.

## **CARIBBEAN DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT**

The very substantial Caribbean diaspora in Canada is substantially located in Montreal and Toronto, but also all across Canada. The annual Cariwest Festival in Edmonton each year draws thousands of diaspora to a two hour parade and all day festivities.

The diaspora also form many well organized cultural groups in Canada, a wealth of knowledge and capability to engage in outwardly reaching trade and economic endeavours in the Caribbean region.

## **ENGLAND-FRANCE-EUROPEAN UNION-CARICOM-OAS-USA**

It certainly will be necessary to be cognizant of the foreign interests of these countries and associations involved in the Caribbean as well as the interests of the European Union. Much of the considerations of course depend on the depth of the Caribbean market trade and development incursions anticipated.

Canada of course has long held the respect of the nations of the region as well as the particular European and South American interests.

Virtually all Caribbean countries are open to much more initiatives.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Explore the interests of several Caribbean countries to work with Canada to the extent of a partnership on a free trade deep water port Canadian platform Foreign Trade Zone development in the region for transshipping and distribution from Canadian ports.

Include this shipping port facility, trade and investment initiatives on the agenda for discussion with CARICOM government and industry consultations in upcoming CARICOM-Canada conferences to demonstrate serious interest in pursuing economic reengagement with the region for the Government of Canada.

# **THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS** **A CANADA-CARIBBEAN TRADE PARTNER?**

**May 2015**

## **HISTORICAL EVOLUTION**

The Turks and Caicos Islands are two island groups located in the Caribbean just north of Haiti. These islands were originally inhabited by the Lucayans from Hispaniola and Cuba and were later inhabited by the Bermudians. European influence with these islands began in 1678 when the British arrived to establish a salt-panning industry. During this time, many African slaves were transported to the islands for labour. In 1833, slavery was abolished in Britain and the emancipation of slaves on the Turks and Caicos soon followed. From 1848 to 1873, the Turks and Caicos were a non-aligned British colony. Then, for nearly a century, from 1874 to 1962, the Turks and Caicos were governed by Jamaica. After Jamaica received its independence in 1962, the Turks and Caicos once again became a non-aligned British colony.

## **GOVERNMENT**

Governed by The Bahamas from 1965 to 1973, the Turks and Caicos Islands were granted their own government in 1993. The current Governor, Richard Tauwhare, is advised by a legislative council composed of 13 elected members, 6 appointed members and an elected speaker. The current head of the elected government is Chief Minister Michael Misick.

## **GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE**

The capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands is Cockburn Town, located about 90 miles north of the Dominican Republic and some 2,000 air miles south of Ottawa. This is approximately the same 2000-mile distance between Ottawa and Edmonton. It is interesting to note that there are a number of cities in Canada (such as Victoria, Yellowknife and Whitehorse) that are located much further away from Ottawa than the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The six principal islands and several cays that comprise the Turks and Caicos Islands are approximately 500 square kilometers in area and contain nearly 400 kilometers of coastline. The islands are geographically an extension of the Bahamas chain and are of similar composition. Elevations reach a height of no more than 50 meters and the islands are surrounded by coral reefs.

These islands possess a warm, pleasant and rather dry climate with seasonal temperatures ranging from 24 to 32 degrees Celsius. The annual average rainfall is 56 centimeters.

## **POPULATION AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

The islands have a population of approximately 25,000. The majority of the islands' citizens work in the labour force and unemployment is estimated to be at 15%. The official language of this island nation is English and the official currency is the U.S. dollar.

The Turks and Caicos Islands have a number of social problems that are also common to Canada. Illegal immigration and drug trafficking are primary concerns and both Canada and the Caribbean would do well to adopt common anti-drug/immigration strategies. This would also be of benefit to the greatest destination for these illicit enterprises, the United States.

## **ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS**

The primary industries for the Turks and Caicos are tourism, fishing and offshore banking. For most essential foods and products, these islands continue to rely on imports from the United States. Not surprisingly, there has been a lot of interest expressed in economic diversification to facilitate a broader array of business and employment opportunities for the islanders.

During the course of my involvement with these islands, I have been approached by several businesses that have expressed an interest in aquaculture farming in the island waters.

## **CONNECTING THE ISLANDS**

The primary islands of the Turks and Caicos (Providential, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, East Caicos and South Caicos) are separated by short distances of shallow water, which allows them to be readily connectible by causeways. Such a project would greatly aid the development of sparsely settled North, Middle and South Islands and would foster economic growth. Although the cost of such an initiative is marginal by Canadian standards, it is presently beyond the island nation's economic capacity. Moreover, there have been concerns expressed on the ecological implications of such a project, especially in some of the more sensitive reef areas.

## **DEEP WATER PORT**

During my recent visit in January of 2007, I met with Ralph Higgs, the Director of Tourism Marketing for the Turks and Caicos Tourist Board, where he related to me the intention the government (under Michael Misick) to foster greater economic ties with Canada. Ralph Higgs was one of the point people involved with past initiatives to seek closer association with Canada.

Issues that were discussed included the importance to examine the possible use of South Caicos Island as an ideal deep water port facility for Canadian distribution and

transshipping, ideally becoming a Foreign Trade zone (FTZ) for Canada's development and long term use. A Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) is a designated area which for customs purposes is considered to be outside the country of location. Such considerations, of course, are the purview of formal government discussions, but an indication of Islanders' willingness to discuss options for closer economic association.

## **GRAND TURKS ISLAND**

The only other deep water port is located on Grand Turks Island, which is 25 miles away from South Caicos and cannot be connected by causeway. Although once used to support American and British naval bases, this small island is now host to cruise ships and the tourist industry. The economy, which was severely depressed with high unemployment when I visited in 2004, has recovered considerably because of tourism.

## **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR CANADA?**

- A Canadian location in the region for trade, economic development and humanitarian assistance.
- A reliable port for transshipping and distribution.
- A partner with the Turks and Caicos, an associate member of CARICOM.
- A physical Canadian market presence in the region.
- A Canadian platform for 'DART' and security deployment.
- Ability to better compete with the world much more directly in the Caribbean and South America.

## **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR THE TURKS AND CAICOS?**

- Possible help to build a deep water port.
- Access to Canadian heavy deep water shipped goods.
- Direct access to Canadian emergency aid if needed.
- Diversified economy by non-tourism employment jobs year-round.
- Possible help with causeway road construction, allowing buoyant economy of Provo Island to connect with the other islands.
- Lower cost goods and services by deep water shipping.
- Increased direct air travel to Canada.
- Possible improved hospital and medical facilities.
- Possible post secondary education.
- Possible improved security for fisheries and immigration and the war on drug trafficking.
- Development of aquaculture and other industry.

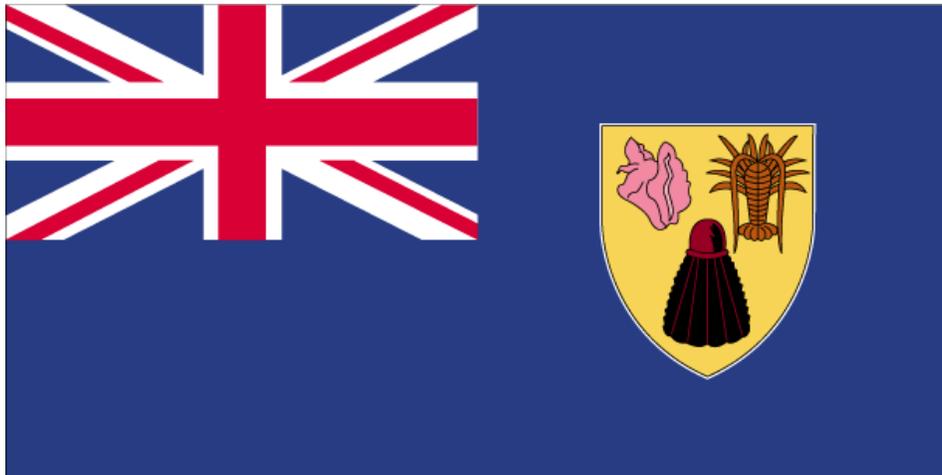
## **CONCLUSION**

Today, there is a tremendous opportunity for Canada to enhance its economic and political ties with the Turks and Caicos Islands and thereby improve its hemispheric relations with the Americas. The Caribbean has enormous economic and strategic potential and should be a priority for Canadian policy makers and businesses alike.

Enhanced relations would help promote economic prosperity and support political aspirations of the Turks and Caicos as well the entire region. By reaching out and expanding economic and political relations, Canada will be contributing to global peace and security, while securing its own interests in the years ahead.

Peter Goldring Member of  
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East





## TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

### CIA World Factbook

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#### Introduction: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

#### Background:

The islands were part of the UK's Jamaican colony until 1962, when they assumed the status of a separate crown colony upon Jamaica's independence. The governor of The Bahamas oversaw affairs from 1965 to 1973. With Bahamian independence, the islands received a separate governor in 1973. Although independence was agreed upon for 1982, the policy was reversed and the islands remain a British overseas territory.

#### Geography: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

##### Location:

Two island groups in the North Atlantic Ocean, southeast of The Bahamas, north of Haiti

##### Geographic coordinates:

21 45 N, 71 35 W

##### Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean

##### Area:

Total: 948 sq. km

Land: 948 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Country comparison to the world: 186



**Area - comparative:**

2.5 times the size of Washington, DC

**Land boundaries:**

0 km

**Coastline:**

389 km

**Maritime claims:**

Territorial sea: 12 nm

Exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm

**Climate:**

Tropical; marine; moderated by trade winds; sunny and relatively dry

**Terrain:**

Low, flat limestone; extensive marshes and mangrove swamps

**Elevation extremes:**

Lowest point: Caribbean Sea 0 m

Highest point: Flamingo Hill 48 m

**Natural resources:**

Spiny lobster, conch

**Land use:**

Arable land: 1.05%

Permanent crops: 0%

Other: 98.95% (2012 est.)

**Natural hazards:**

Frequent hurricanes

**Environment - current issues:**

Limited natural freshwater resources, private cisterns collect rainwater

**Geography - note:**

About 40 islands (eight inhabited)

**People and Society: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS****Nationality:**

None

**Ethnic groups:**

Black 87.6%, white 7.9%, mixed 2.5%, East Indian 1.3%, other 0.7% (2006)

**Languages:**

English (official)

**Religions:**

Protestant 72.8% (Baptist 35.8%, Church of God 11.7%, Anglican 10%, Methodist 9.3%, Seventh-Day Adventist 6%), Roman Catholic 11.4%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1.8%, other 14%



**Population:**

49,070 (July 2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 212

**Age structure:**

0-14 years: 22.1% (male 5,536/female 5,332)

15-24 years: 14.8% (male 3,552/female 3,715)

25-54 years: 53.5% (male 13,333/female 12,931)

55-64 years: 5.3% (male 1,434/female 1,188)

65 years and over: 4.2% (male 910/female 1,139) (2014 est.)

**Median age:**

Total: 31.9 years

Male: 32.2 years

Female: 31.5 years (2014 est.)

**Population growth rate:**

2.58% (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 27

**Birth rate:**

16.61 births/1,000 population (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 119

**Death rate:**

3.08 deaths/1,000 population (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 221

**Net migration rate:**

12.23 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 12

**Urbanization:**

Urban population: 91.8% of total population (2014)

Rate of urbanization: 2.48% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

**Major urban areas - population:**

Grand Turk (capital) 5,000 (2014)

**Sex ratio:**

At birth: 1.05 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.04 male(s)/female

15-24 years: 0.96 male(s)/female

25-54 years: 1.03 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 1.02 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.8 male(s)/female

Total population: 1.02 male(s)/female (2014 est.)

**Infant mortality rate:**

Total: 10.97 deaths/1,000 live births

Male: 13.7 deaths/1,000 live births

Female: 8.09 deaths/1,000 live births (2014 est.)

**Life expectancy at birth:**

Total population: 79.55 years

Male: 76.8 years

Female: 82.42 years (2014 est.)

**Total fertility rate:**

1.7 children born/woman (2014 est.)

**Drinking water source:**

Improved:

Urban: 87% of population

Rural: 87% of population

Total: 87.1% of population

Unimproved:

Urban: 13% of population

Rural: 13% of population

Total: 12.9% of population (2007 est.)

**Sanitation facility access:**

Improved:

Urban: 81.4% of population

Rural: 81.4% of population

Total: 81.4% of population

Unimproved:

Urban: 18.6% of population

Rural: 18.6% of population

Total: 18.6% of population (2007 est.)

**HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:**

NA

**HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:**

NA

**HIV/AIDS - deaths:**

NA

**Education expenditures:**

NA

**People - note:**

Destination and transit point for illegal Haitian immigrants bound for the Turks and Caicos Islands, The Bahamas, and the US

**Government: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS****Country name:**

Conventional long form: none

Conventional short form: Turks and Caicos Islands

Abbreviation: TCI

**Dependency status:**

Overseas territory of the UK

**Government type:**

NA

**Capital:**

Name: Grand Turk (Cockburn Town)

Geographic coordinates: 21 28 N, 71 08 W

Time difference: UTC-5 (same time as Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Daylight saving time: +1hr, begins second Sunday in March; ends first Sunday in November

**Administrative divisions:**

None (overseas territory of the UK)

**Independence:**

None (overseas territory of the UK)

**National holiday:**

Constitution Day, 30 August (1976)

**Constitution:**

Several previous; latest signed 7 August 2012, effective 15 October 2012 (Turks and Caicos Constitution Order 2011) (2012)

**Legal system:**

Mixed legal system of English common law and civil law

**Suffrage:**

18 years of age; universal

**Executive branch:**

Chief of state: Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); represented by Governor Peter BECKINGHAM (since 9 October 2013)

Head of government: Premier Rufus EWING (since 13 November 2012)

Cabinet: Cabinet consists of the governor, deputy governor, the premier, no more than six other ministers appointed by the governor from among the members of the House of Assembly, and the attorney general

Elections: the monarch is hereditary; governor appointed by the monarch; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party is appointed premier by the governor

Note: the UK foreign minister determined that sufficient progress had been made to reinstate local government under a new constitution (effective October 2012)

**Legislative branch:**

Description: unicameral House of Assembly (19 seats; 15 members in multi-seat constituencies and a single all-islands constituency directly elected by simple majority vote and 4 appointed by the governor on the advice of the premier and opposition party; members serve 4-year terms)

Elections: last held on 9 November 2012 (next to be held in 2016)

Election results: percent of vote - NA; seats by party - PNP 8, PDM 7

**Judicial branch:**

highest resident court(s): Supreme Court (consists of the chief justice and such number of other judges as determined by the governor); Court of Appeal (consists of the court president and 2 justices); note - appeals beyond the Supreme Court are heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, in London

Judge selection and term of office: Supreme Court and Appeals Court judges appointed by the governor in accordance with the Judicial Service Commission, a 3-member body of high level judicial officials; Supreme Court judges appointed until mandatory retirement at age 65, but can be extended to age 70; Appeals Court judge tenure determined by individual terms of appointment

Subordinate courts: magistrates' courts

**Political parties and leaders:**

People's Democratic Movement or PDM [Oswald SKIPPINGS]

People's Progressive Party

Progressive National Party or PNP [Rufus EWING]

Political pressure groups and leaders:

NA

**International organization participation:**

Caricom (associate), CDB, Interpol (subbureau), UPU

**Diplomatic representation in the US:**

None (overseas territory of the UK)

**Diplomatic representation from the US:**

None (overseas territory of the UK)

**Flag description:**

Blue with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the colonial shield centered on the outer half of the flag; the shield is yellow and displays a conch shell, a spiny lobster, and Turks Head cactus - three common elements of the islands' biota

National symbol(s):

Conch shell, Turks Head cactus

National anthem:

Name: "This Land of Ours"

Lyrics/music: Conrad HOWELL

Note: serves as a local anthem; as a territory of the United Kingdom, "God Save the Queen" is the official anthem (see United Kingdom)

## **Economy: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS**

### **Economy - overview:**

The Turks and Caicos economy is based on tourism, offshore financial services, and fishing. Most capital goods and food for domestic consumption are imported. The US is the leading source of tourists, accounting for more than three-quarters of the 175,000 visitors that arrived in 2004. Major sources of government revenue also include fees from offshore financial activities and customs receipts.

**GDP (purchasing power parity):**

\$632 million (2007 est.)

**GDP (official exchange rate):**

NA

**GDP - real growth rate:**

11.2% (2007 est.)

**GDP - per capita (PPP):**

\$29,100 (2007 est.)

**GDP - composition, by end use:**

Household consumption: 23.4%

Government consumption: 18.9%

Investment in fixed capital: 57.6%  
Investment in inventories: 0%  
Exports of goods and services: 76.2%  
Imports of goods and services: -76.1%  
(2014 est.)

**GDP - composition, by sector of origin:**

Agriculture: 1.1%  
Industry: 23.3%  
Services: 75.7% (2014 est.)

**Agriculture - products:**

Corn, beans, cassava (manioc, tapioca), citrus fruits; fish

**Industries:**

Tourism, offshore financial services

**Industrial production growth rate:**

3% (2014 est.)

**Labor force:**

4,848 (1990 est.)

**Labor force - by occupation:**

Note: about 33% in government and 20% in agriculture and fishing; significant numbers in tourism, financial, and other services

**Unemployment rate:**

10% (1997 est.)

**Population below poverty line:**

NA%

**Household income or consumption by percentage share:**

Lowest 10%: NA%

Highest 10%: NA%

**Budget:**

Revenues: \$451.5 million

Expenditures: \$468.2 million (2014 est.)

**Fiscal year:**

Calendar year

**Inflation rate (consumer prices):**

2.5% (2014 est.)

2.5% (2013 est.)

**Exports:**

\$24.77 million (2008 est.)

Exports - commodities:

Lobster, dried and fresh conch, conch shells

**Imports:**

\$591.3 million (2008 est.)

**Imports - commodities:**

Food and beverages, tobacco, clothing, manufactures, construction materials

**Debt - external:**

\$NA

**Exchange rates:**

The US dollar is used

**Energy: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS****Electricity - production:**

185 million kWh (2011 est.)

**Electricity - consumption:**

172.1 million kWh (2011 est.)

**Electricity - exports:**

0 kWh (2013 est.)

**Electricity - imports:**

0 kWh (2013 est.)

**Electricity - installed generating capacity:**

48,000 kW (2011 est.)

**Electricity - from fossil fuels:**

100% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)

**Electricity - from nuclear fuels:**

0% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)

**Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:**

0% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)

**Electricity - from other renewable sources:**

0% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)

**Crude oil - production:**

0 bbl/day (2013 est.)

**Crude oil - proved reserves:**

0 bbl (1 January 2014 est.)

**Refined petroleum products - production:**

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

**Refined petroleum products - consumption:**

990 bbl/day (2013 est.)

**Refined petroleum products - exports:**

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

**Refined petroleum products - imports:**

1,063 bbl/day (2010 est.)

**Natural gas - production:**

0 cu m (2012 est.)

**Natural gas - consumption:**

0 cu m (2012 est.)

**Natural gas - exports:**

0 cu m (2012 est.)

**Natural gas - imports:**

0 cu m (2012 est.)

**Natural gas - proved reserves:**

0 cu m (1 January 2014 est.)

**Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:**

159,400 Mt (2012 est.)

**Communications: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS****Telephone system:**

General assessment: fully digital system with international direct dialing

Domestic: full range of services available; GSM wireless service available

International: country code - 1-649; the Americas Region Caribbean Ring System (ARCOS-1) fiber optic telecommunications submarine cable provides connectivity to South and Central America, parts of the Caribbean, and the US; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean) (2011)

**Broadcast media:**

No local terrestrial TV stations, broadcasts from the Bahamas can be received and multi-channel cable and satellite TV services are available; government-run radio network operates alongside private broadcasters with a total of about 15 stations (2007)

**Radio broadcast stations:**

AM 2, FM 7, shortwave 0 (2003)

Television broadcast stations:

0 (broadcasts received from The Bahamas; 2 cable television networks) (2003)

Internet country code:

.tc

Internet hosts:

73,217 (2012)

**Transportation: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS****Airports:**

8 (2013)

**Airports - with paved runways:**

Total: 6

**Airports - with unpaved runways:**

Total: 2

Under 914 m:

2 (2013)

**Roadways:**

Total: 121 km

Paved: 24 km

Unpaved: 97 km (2003)

**Ports and terminals:**

Major seaport(s): Cockburn Harbour, Grand Turk, Providenciales

**Military :: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS****Manpower fit for military service:**

Males age 16-49: 11,842

Females age 16-49: 11,755 (2010 est.)

**Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:**

Male: 338

Female: 342 (2010 est.)

**Military - note:**

Defense is the responsibility of the UK

**Transnational Issues: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS****Disputes - international:**

Have received Haitians fleeing economic and civil disorder

**Illicit drugs:**

Transshipment point for South American narcotics destined for the US and Europe

# TIMES OF THE ISLANDS

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS SUMMER 2004 NO. 67

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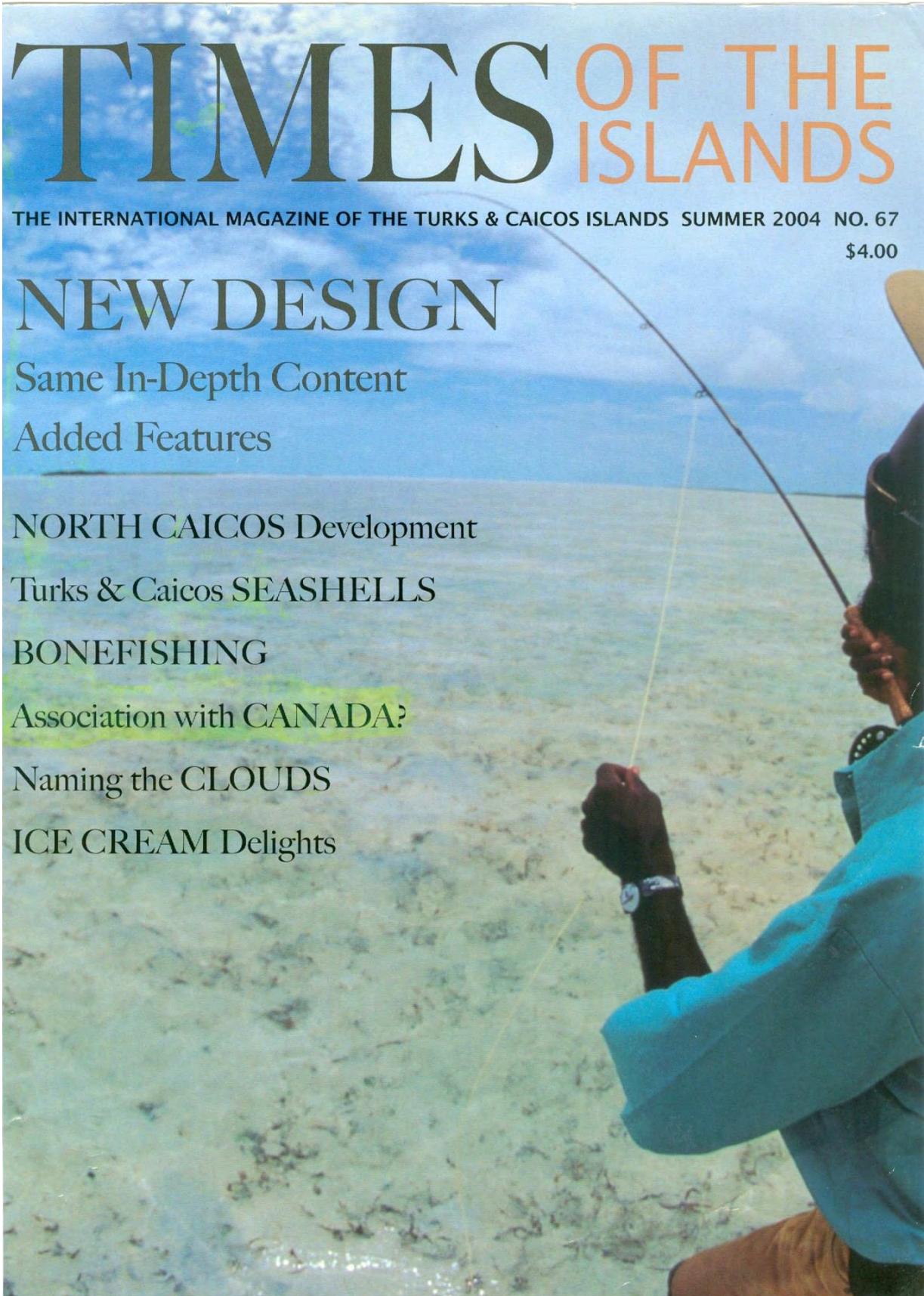
Turks & Caicos SEASHELLS

BONEFISHING

Association with CANADA?

Naming the CLOUDS

ICE CREAM Delights



## business

# A Place in the Sun?

A formal association between Turks & Caicos and Canada could be possible.

Story & Photos By Steve Rennie

Each winter, thousands of Canadians flee from their igloos to the sandy beaches and warm breezes of the Caribbean. In the process, they spend an estimated \$30 million in the region, money that many Canadian politicians feel could be better spent at home.

With that in mind, one Canadian Member of Parliament has been looking into the possibility



Peace Tower, part of Canada's Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, Ontario, the country's capital city.

of creating a formal association with the Turks & Caicos Islands. Conservative MP Peter Goldring hopes to see the day when the 40-island archipelago becomes Canada's eleventh province. "The process now is one of information, because I want to be very, very clear that this is far more than just a vacation destination for Canada," said Goldring.

Canada's Parliament Buildings,  
in Ottawa, Ontario.



The idea is not a new one for the Turks & Caicos Islands. Historically, ownership of the Islands has passed from one country to another. Discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492, the Turks & Caicos Islands are believed by some to be the explorer's first landfall in the New World. Later re-discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce De Leon on an expedition from Puerto Rico, the archipelago remained largely uninhabited until salt collectors from Bermuda settled on Grand Turk in 1678. The Bermudians successfully defended their settlement against a Bahamian annexation attempt in 1700, a Spanish invasion in 1710, and a French invasion in 1763. A second invasion attempt by the French in 1764 was successful, however, and the Bermudians were exiled to Haiti.

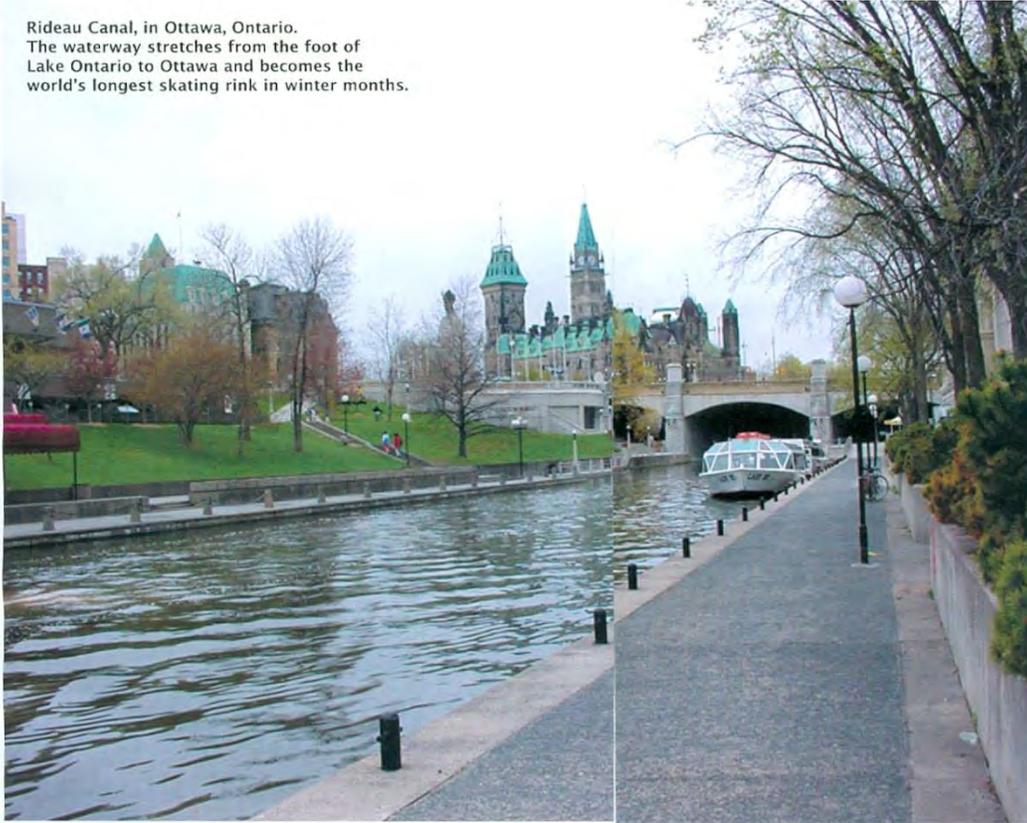
For the next few decades, Britain continued to fight with France and Spain for ownership before finally gaining control of the Islands and amalgamating them with the Bahamas. The Turks & Caicos Islands separated from the Bahamas in 1848, but were annexed by Jamaica, a British colony, in 1874. After Jamaica gained independence in 1962, the Turks & Caicos Islands once again became a non-aligned British Crown Colony. The Bahamian Governor was also governor of the Turks & Caicos Islands from 1965 to 1973, when the Islands received their own governor. Three years later, the Islands established a new constitution, and have remained a British dependency ever since.

Canada's interest in the Turks & Caicos Islands dates back nearly a century. In 1917, Prime Minister

Robert Borden first suggested the idea of a union while cruising in the region. It was not until 1974, however, that NDP Member of Parliament Max Saltzman introduced a private member's bill to annex the Islands. The Canadian government subsequently rejected the motion, but the idea of a union between the two countries continued to be a popular idea among Canadians, desperate for a place in the sun to call their own during the frigid winter months.

After Saltzman's death in November 1985, Conservative MP Dan McKenzie took up the cause to bring the idea of a union to the forefront. In April 1986, two Turks & Caicos businessmen, Ralph Higgs and Delton Jones, joined him in a wave of national news coverage. Together, they addressed the Progressive Conservative Caucus

Rideau Canal, in Ottawa, Ontario. The waterway stretches from the foot of Lake Ontario to Ottawa and becomes the world's longest skating rink in winter months.



try to return the Caribbean trade Canada had a hundred years ago. A hundred years ago, Canada's maritime was a major trader in the region."

"What this means for the Turks & Caicos is that it's not just a destination of trade goods, it's a port of furthering on of distribution of trade goods, which would make the Turks & Caicos a major trader in the area," added Goldring.

One of the barriers preventing other Canadian politicians from joining Goldring's cause is fear that talks of forming a union with the Turks & Caicos Islands will be perceived as neo-colonialism.

"It's not annexing the Turks & Caicos, and I want to be very clear on that. The annexing kind of smacks of colonialism. This is not. You cannot have colonialism if two parties want to come together, that's not colonialism. Colonialism is one party doing it where the other party has no choice," said Goldring. "In this particular case, it would have to be a matching of two countries that want to join together for economic and social benefits. You would want to have a very substantial majority of both countries wanting to do so."

For a union to take place, Britain would have to allow the Turks & Caicos Islands to enter into formal discussions with Canada. In addition, a majority of Islanders would have to vote in favour of a union.

"Given those circumstances, I talked to Governor Poston, and he said the British position [was that] if the people of the Turks & Caicos wished it and if they were partnering with a country that was able to properly assist the development — in other words, be a true partner to the country and would benefit the people of the country — then he sees no reason why England would not go along with the idea," said Goldring.

Goldring also notes that the union could take one of several forms, from an economic or political relationship to a tri-partite arrange-



Left: TCI Chief Minister Honourable Michael E. Misick meets with Peter Goldring, MP during his visit to the Islands in January, 2004.  
Right: TCI Governor HE James Poston and Peter Goldring in Grand Turk.

Sub-Committee on External Affairs, chaired by David Daubney. Although a survey revealed that more than 90% of Islanders favoured an association with Canada, Daubney concluded it would be inappropriate for Canada to unilaterally institute formal talks with the Turks & Caicos Islands in the midst of the Islands' upcoming election. Instead, the Committee recommended that Canada increase foreign aid to the Turks & Caicos Islands, while also encouraging private sector investment.

In October 1987, Ralph Higgs and Delton Jones returned to Canada and, along with Dan McKenzie and other interested Canadians, created the Turks & Caicos Development Organization, a non-profit group that allows Canadians to become

directly involved in the process of uniting the two countries. Last year, Peter Goldring introduced a motion to once again investigate the possibility of forming a union with the Turks & Caicos Islands. Unlike his predecessors, Goldring claims that there is more to a union between the two countries than a vacation spot for winter-weary snowbirds.

"I've been promoting this in Ottawa not as the obvious, the sand and sun, but as an economic benefit and a political influence in a complete region like the Caribbean," said Goldring. "That, in my mind, is far more important to the benefit of Canada and the Turks & Caicos than simply emphasizing the tourist aspect of it. The tourist aspect is something that I think is relatively taken care of now."

Goldring notes that the response across Canada runs in "the high 95%," and believes there are a number of benefits for both countries. He cites a greatly expanded economy, universal health care, ready access to post-secondary education, and lower cost of goods and services as a few of the benefits for Islanders. In addition, says Goldring, there are many benefits for Canadians.

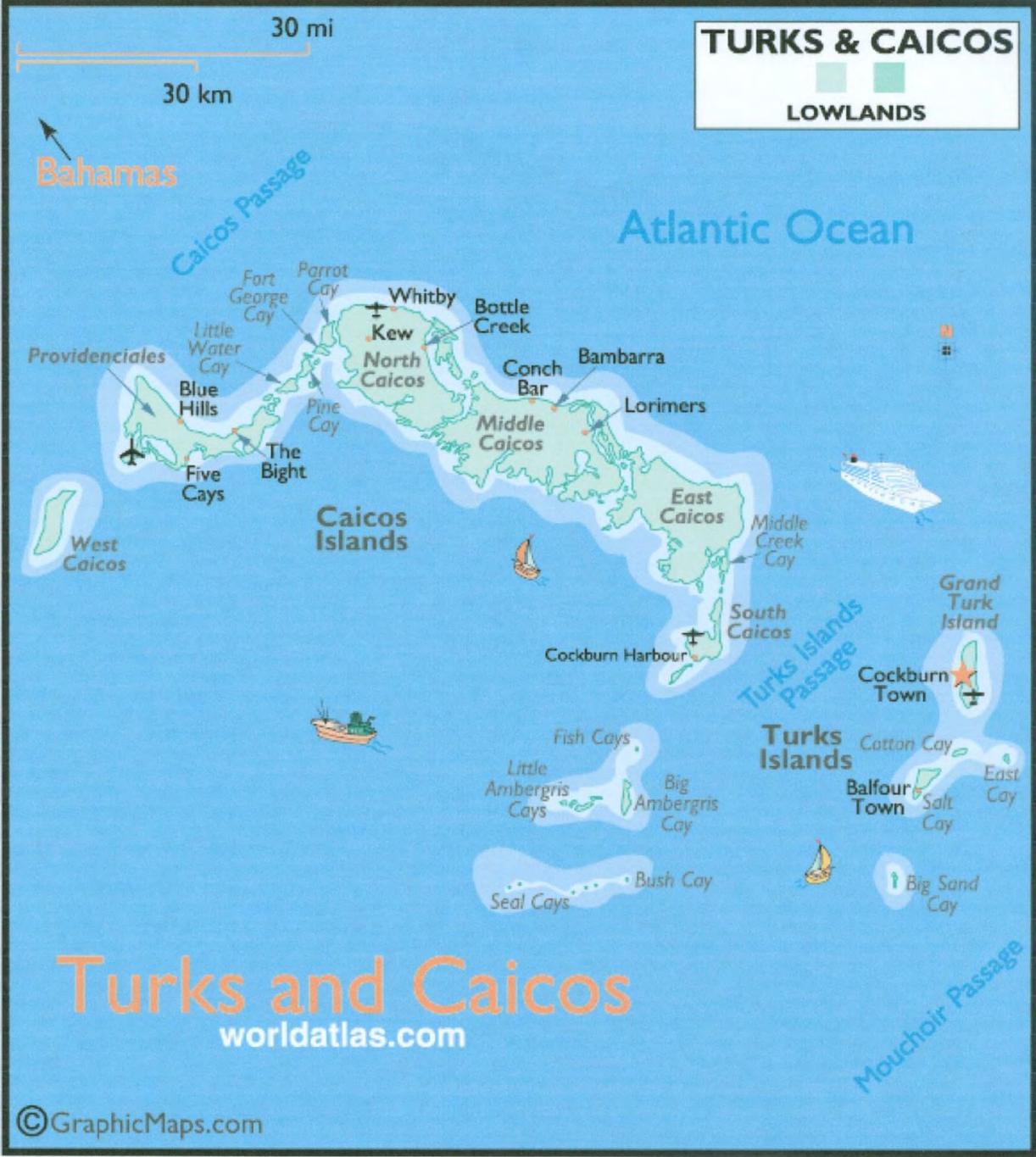
"One of the big benefits to the Islands is deep-water port. Deep-water port brings in container traffic [and] brings in far more economical price and cost of goods and services that are imported," said Goldring. "Also, by having deep-water port, we fully engage shipping organizations — dare I say Paul Martin's Canada Steamship Lines, for example — and

agree, but that's my personal feeling."

Likewise, Michael Misick, Chief Minister of the Turks & Caicos Islands, recently declared his interest in discussing a "free association" with Canada, similar to the relationship between New Zealand and the Cook Islands. In January 2004, Goldring went on a fact-finding visit to the Turks & Caicos Islands, where he met with several high-ranking officials, including Misick and Governor James Poston. Goldring described the visit as "positive enough to know that it must be explored further," and plans to keep looking into the possibility of a union. Liberal MP Massimo Pacetti has joined Goldring, proving that political differences can be put aside for a common good.

As the temperature creeps back up in the Great White North, talks of a union are heating up again. This past March, Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin agreed to meet with Misick to further discuss the possibility of a formal association between the two nations. On April 21, Nova Scotia's three political parties voted unanimously to invite the Turks & Caicos Islands to join the province if a union ever takes place. There's a buzz in the air as Canadians from coast to coast become more acquainted with the Caribbean archipelago they one day hope to call home. ☺

*Steve Rennie is an honours student at the University of Ottawa. He regularly contributes to a number of newspapers and magazines and works in an editorial position at a major Canadian publisher. He has visited the Caribbean several times and has a keen interest in the region.*



# The Turks & Caicos Islands

## Canada's 11th Province?

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Over 100 years ago Canada's maritime provinces were engaged in major shipping of trade and export goods throughout the Caribbean region but since have lost much of their influence and markets. It is time to renew this trade and shipping relationship with the Caribbean region. A direct political union of the countries of the Turks & Caicos Islands with Canada would provide the authority and vehicle to do so for the benefit of both. The following is an article written by Peter Goldring and published in the Montreal Gazette in August 2003.

Like many Canadians, I recall my enthusiasm for a great idea proposed about 20 years ago for the colony of the Turks and Caicos Islands to join with Canada. A good idea? You bet! It just makes good business sense for Canada to take advantage of a willing marketplace to expand into that will benefit the people of both countries. Many others thought so and also wondered why the union didn't happen.

Richard Pearson of Ottawa is once again promoting the idea that the Turks and Caicos Islands become part of Canada.

Check it out on his web site [www.aplaceinthesun.ca](http://www.aplaceinthesun.ca).

I'm giving my full support to help drive this wonderful idea to a successful conclusion. Canada's founding fathers did not falter in their vision of a country of many diverse regions united together for peace and prosperity to the benefit of all. Why should we?



Scene of Providenciales

I'm not at all surprised at the overwhelming positive response in Canada because most of us would very much like to have a Canadian "place in the sun" year round. At the same time, residents of the Turks and Caicos, who were 90 per cent in favour of a union 20 years ago, are still very favourable to the idea. I had encouraging discussions with several people in the Turks and Caicos, and intend to visit the islands this December to talk directly with the people and their government.

The capital of the Turks and Caicos,



Cockburn Town, is about 150 kilometres north of the Dominican Republic and about 3,000 kilometres south of Ottawa, approximately the same distance west from Ottawa to where I live in Edmonton.

The Turks and Caicos have historically been in protectorate relationships. The Islands, inhabited by aboriginals, were first settled by Europeans in 1678, when the British arrived to establish a salt-panning industry. From 1848 to 1873, the Turks and Caicos were a non-aligned British colony, Then, for nearly a century, from 1874 to 1962, the Turks and Caicos were governed by Jamaica. When Jamaica gained its independence in 1962, the Turks and Caicos once again became a non-aligned British colony.



Provo Island School

primary industries are tourism, fishing, (mainly lobster and conch) and offshore banking.

The possible benefits for both countries are numerous and very exciting. **The benefits include for the people of the Turks and Caicos:**

- A greatly expanded economy
- Lower-cost goods and services
- Direct, regular air travel to the rest of Canada
- Universal health care, improved hospital and medical facilities
- Diversifying the economy with manufacturing, distribution jobs.
- Ready access to post-secondary education

The islands, surrounded by coral reefs, have a warm, pleasant and dry climate ranging in seasonal temperatures from 24 to 32 C, with annual rainfall averaging 56 centimetres. It has a population of about 24,000 people, the official language is English and the colony follows the British legal system.

The Turks and Caicos import significantly more goods than they export because most of the land on the islands is not arable and there are no significant manufacturing. The

**For the rest of Canada:**

- Stable, secure retirement condos
- Stable, secure vacation destination in Canada
- Manufacturing distribution for the Caribbean and South America
- A place for Paul Martin to park his fleet in Canada
- National revenue from a new "have" province
- Rebalance vacation-travel deficit



In short, the addition of the Turks and Caicos as Canada's 11<sup>th</sup> province would create economic enhancement for both regions and would be a natural fit socially for our multicultural nation.

Some 450,000 Canadians now vacation in the Caribbean. Well over one million Canadians vacation outside of Canada, leaving billions in foreign countries' coffers. If even 10 percent of this vacation travel, or 100,000 people, were to visit the Canadian province of the Turks and Caicos, the social effects would be negligible, but the boost to the islands economy would be incredible.



Providenciales

The idea of a more formal relationship between Canada and the Turks and Caicos is not new. It was discussed and then rejected by the Canadian government in the 1970s and again in the late 1980s, when members of the government of the Turks and Caicos visited Ottawa to ask Canada to consider some form of "special relationship" with their country.

At the time, the Mulroney cabinet nixed the request.

The world is very much different now. People are connected world wide on the Internet. Communications are instant. Computers and portable cellular phones

have taken big business into small communities. September 11 has caused us to appreciate and value personal security and friendly places to visit.

I feel that it is time to have the people of Canada and the Turks and Caicos speak up on the acceptability of a union between the two countries.

Most dreams take wing by the effort of many. If the same dream is shared by many people of both countries over several generations, perhaps it is time to bring that dream to reality.

**House of Commons**  
**MOTION #474**

One of the methods available to a Member of Parliament to raise issues is to put forward a Private Member's Motion in the House of Commons for debate.

Peter Goldring placed the following Motion on the Order Paper on Sept. 23, 2003

**That, in the opinion of this House, the federal government commence exploratory discussions to determine whether there is a social and economic will for a union of the country of the Turks and Caicos Islands with Canada, as Canada's eleventh province.**

**Canada—Possible Benefits**

- Trade Region Stabilized
- \$1 Billion Trade Export Market Potential
- Business Development Opportunity
- Tourist Dollar Deficient Reduction
- Direct Caribbean Political & Economic Influence
- Additional Air Routes
- Retirement Investment Region
- Manufacturing Food Distribution Centre
- Canadian Navy Exercise offshore & port of call
- Port for Canada Steamship Line to be Registered and Paying taxes in Canada
- Summer Olympic Training Centre

**Turks & Caicos— Possible Benefits**

- Lower cost of import products
- Regional Trade Export Centre
- Regional Investment/Banking Centre
- 200 Mile Fishing Industry
- Agriculture and Aquaculture Development
- Infrastructure Development Assistance
- Business Diversification from Tourism
- Post Secondary Education
- Full Hospital Services
- Appointed Lt. Governor & Senators
- Elected Federal Member of Parliament with Provincial Government & Premier
- Summer Olympic Training Centre

Update: In January 2004, Peter Goldring visited the Turks and Caicos Islands and met with Governor Poston, Chief Minister Misick and many others. More details on the Turks & Caicos will follow in a future issue.

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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 and fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.*

**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and farm products in the Caribbean and South America?

Yes

No

**Question #2** Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should continue exploratory talks for a possible union to be ratified by all citizens of both countries?

Yes

No

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton Centre-East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

# The Turks & Caicos Islands A Positive Canadian Caribbean Influence



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

In January 2004, Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament, visited the Turks and Caicos Islands to talk with Islanders about their future aspirations and to gauge their interest to discuss a more formal social economic union with Canada.

With the recent involvement of Canadian troops in Haiti, perhaps there is yet another dimension that merits consideration when addressing whether Canada should have a more formal relationship with the Turks and Caicos Islands. While Canadian peacekeeping expertise is called for in the Caribbean, the home base of any operation is extremely remote. If the Turks and Caicos were Canada's 11<sup>th</sup> province, Canada would be in a position to more readily offer assistance. For example, Canada could have facilities on the islands for a 100 member rotated security and patrol force involved in tropical training exercises supported by a long range search and rescue helicopter and coastal patrol boats. This force would, of course, include members from the islands who have chosen to join Canada's security forces and would be readily available for natural disasters and emergencies. The

Turks and Caicos would benefit from this sovereignty reinforcement in the regulating of offshore fisheries, territorial waters, sea and air security.

Some have argued that if the Turks and Caicos were to become Canada's 11<sup>th</sup> province, the islands would become inundated by asylum-seekers from the Caribbean, as well as by Canadians wanting to move to the Turks and Caicos permanently. The natural beauty and ecosystem of the islands could become degraded through overpopulation. The unique situation of the Turks and Caicos calls for the general recognition that exceptional measures must be taken with Provincial regulation of immigration and residency to preserve its unique culture from being inundated with immigrants, while at the same time encouraging investors and tourists.



Ralph Higgs, of the Turks & Caicos Islands Development Organization, and his son

## History

The Islands were initially inhabited by the Lucayans, from Hispaniola and Cuba, and later inhabited by Bermudians. European influence commenced in 1678 after their discovery by Columbus in 1492. The British arrived later to establish a salt-panning indus-



try. During this period, African slaves were transported to the islands to work on British salt industry interests. Slavery was abolished in Britain in 1833 and emancipation of slaves on the Turks and Caicos soon followed. From 1848 to 1873, the Turks and Caicos were a non-aligned British Crown Colony, having a direct relationship with Great Britain.

### Government

For nearly a century, from 1874 until Jamaican independence in 1962, the Turks and Caicos were aligned with Jamaica. As of 1962, the Turks and Caicos once again became a non-aligned British Crown Colony. From 1965 to 1973, the Turks and Caicos were governed by the Bahamas; after 1993, the islands were accorded their own Governor. Current Governor Jim Poston is advised by the Legislative Council of 13 elected members, 6 appointed members and an elected speaker. Chief Minister Michael Misick is the head of the elected Government.

### Geography and Climate

The capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Cockburn Town, is located about 90 miles north of the Dominican Republic and some 2,000 air miles south of Ottawa. This is approximately the same 2000-mile distance west of Ottawa to where I live in Edmonton, the capital of Alberta. Many other Canadian cities, such as Victoria,

Yellowknife and Whitehorse, are much further in distance from Ottawa than are the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The six principal islands and several cays that comprise the Colony of the Turks and Caicos Islands are approximately 500 square kilometres in area and contain nearly 400 kilometres of coastline. The islands geographically are an extension of the Bahamas chain and are of similar composition. Elevations are no more than 50 metres.

The islands, surrounded by coral reefs, have a warm, pleasant and rather dry climate, ranging in seasonal temperatures from 24 to 32 degrees Celsius. The annual average rainfall is 56 centimetres.

### Population and Social Issues

The islands have a population of about 24,000 people, of which a third are actually in the labour force. The unemployment rate is about 15%. The official language is English, and the colony follows the British legal system, though its currency is in U.S. dollars.

There are social problems that are common to both countries. Canada and the Turks and Caicos have immigration and illegal drug trafficking difficulties—coincidentally of considerable concern to their shared neighbouring country, the United States. A common immigration and anti-drug strategy by both regions would be beneficial to help



January 2004—The Turks & Caicos Islands Chief Minister, the Honourable Michael Misick, meets with Member of Parliament Peter Goldring, on Grand Turks



resolve, or at least minimize these difficulties.

**Economic Dimensions**

Virtually all essential goods and foods are imported, mostly from the United States. The primary industries of the Turks and Caicos are tourism, fishing (mainly lobster and conch) and offshore banking. Understandably, there is a great interest in economic diversification, to offer a much broader range of employment and business opportunities for the islanders.

The possible benefits to both countries are numerous and very exciting. Among the many potential benefits could be the following:

**For the people of the Turks and Caicos:**

- A diversified economy, with many islander jobs in the skilled trades, and the professions by establishment of regional head offices
- Development of deep water ports for international trade
- Revitalization of a deep sea fishing industry to a 200 mile limit
- Inter-island causeway connections, with improved roadways
- Direct air travel to major Canadian points of entry
- Development of the islands for film industry jobs and opportunities
- Greater regional stability and security, through direct political participation and by leading by example
- Post-secondary education and hospital care



Governor of the Turks & Caicos Islands Jim Poston and Canadian Member of Parliament Peter Goldring conclude a very cordial meeting

- Coast Guard, fishery patrol and security force integration
- Ecological reclamation of old island waste sites.

**For the people of the rest of Canada:**

- Secure vacation and retirement destinations and business investments
- New markets for Canadian manufactured goods and farm product distribution for the Caribbean and South America
- Olympic and other sports year-round training possibilities.
- A deep water port

for Canada Steamship Lines to dock in Canada.

- \$2 billion in new trade potential of Central American markets
- Caribbean port for Canada's naval training exercises
- Revenue from a new "have" province to confederation partners.
- Help rebalance our international vacation travel deficit.
- Assert Canada's influence in the Caribbean through the

government of the Province of the Turks and Caicos Islands

In short, the confederation of the Turks and Caicos as Canada's 11<sup>th</sup> province would create economic enhancements for both regions. It would be a natural social fit for our multicultural nation. It would also provide the Turks and Caicos Islands with provincial autonomy, and enhance their status and influence in the Caribbean.

The people of Canada and of the Turks and Caicos will, in the near future, speak for themselves on the acceptability of a union between the two countries, but for now, it's time for the people of both regions to examine the balance sheet of benefits that could result. We must carefully and critically evaluate the proposal that will impact many people's lives. Then, perhaps someday soon, adequately informed people of both countries will have an opportunity to vote on the issue.

I want to thank the Turks and Caicos Islands Governor Jim Poston for taking the time to talk to me about the islands and government. I also want to thank Chief Minister The Honourable Michael Misick for his assistance, direction and understanding. It also is important to await Cana-

dian election results in order to determine which Canadian political party might be best able to advance these ideas, in the capacity of being the Canadian government from mid-2004 onward.

At this time, populist initiatives are being undertaken by a number of committed Canadians and Islanders, including petitioning the Canadian government to address the issue. Their efforts may be reviewed on at least two websites: [www.aplaceinthesun.ca](http://www.aplaceinthesun.ca) and [www.4caribbeandream.com](http://www.4caribbeandream.com).

**Update:** On a wave of great public interest, businessmen Richard Pearson, Brad Sigouin, and Member of Parliament Peter Goldring are proceeding to formalize a committee of private businesses and Members of Parliament to address this issue. Member of Parliament Massimo Pacetti has added his much welcomed support.

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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 and fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.*

**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and farm products in the Caribbean and South America?

Yes       No

**Question #2** Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should continue exploratory talks for a possible union to be ratified by all citizens of both countries?

Yes       No

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**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton Centre-East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



With the Turks & Caicos Island having full provincial status in Canada, the Turks & Caicos Islands would greatly benefit by the tremendous political & economic influence they would have throughout the entire Caribbean region while retaining their Islands Distinctiveness & Culture.

As national and international interest in the mutual exploration of a new relationship between Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands grows, there are some who suggest that there are many, including islanders, who are opposed to discussions. At this point, opinions, while encouraged for or against the idea, are being made without the benefit of further examination of the details, and are rather premature. A thorough examination of the possible benefits, by the citizenry of both countries of facts put forward in a rational, dispassionate manner, followed by an open public debate, should be a precondition to definitive opinions being expressed for or against. After all, the upside to any successful negotiation is often

benefits for both sides. In the meantime, this international discussion has brought much goodwill, attention and hundreds of thousands of dollars in free advertising to the Turks and Caicos Island nation.

It is important to keep in mind that the political direction of the current Turks and Caicos Islands government, headed by Chief Minister The Honourable Michael Misick, is that of a "full internal govern-ance". This refers to the ability of island-

ers to determine their future direction, entirely free from British influence. This position neither restricts nor prohibits the possibility of an enhanced relationship with Canada, if islanders so wish. Indeed, Chief Minister Misick has publicly stated to Canadian media that he welcomes

further discussions as to an enhanced relationship with Canada. As an elected representative and government leader of the Turks and Caicos Islands, charged



A scene on Grand Turks Island that exemplifies the uniqueness and character of the island that is important to preserve.



with the responsibility to serve and promote the betterment of his country's people, Chief Minister Misick's willingness to explore new opportunities for the islanders, which could also result in benefits for Canada, is to be welcomed.

In January of this year I visited the Turks and Caicos in order to examine potential business opportunities for the Islands chain and for Canada. While the Turks and Caicos have obviously benefited from good government and have a well-educated population, there are significant infrastructure needs that remain to be met in order for the Islanders to advance economically. For example, there are only slightly over 125 kilometres of road on the islands, and many of these are so bad that new cars, very expensive to import, generally need be replaced after only three years of regular road travel. It must also be appreciated that less than 10% of the island chain has been fully developed at present. The cost of linking islands by a system of inter-island causeways still remains beyond the Islands' current economic means. The shallow water causeway development, combined with deep-water ports on South Caicos and Grand Turk, would dramatically change the economic character of the islands.

Deep-water container shipping transport from Canada's Maritimes with trade product redistribution throughout the Caribbean, from South Caicos and Grand Turk, would greatly diversify the Islands' economy and bring to the Islands consumer goods and food products at reduced cost. With deep-water shipping ports and causeway development, the central islands could be considered for agriculture, tourism and small to medium manufacturing or processing facilities, all of which would provide job diversification and a permanent infrastructure support base made possible by business development. A deep-water port on Grand Turk would also allow for cruise ship docking. The possibilities are literally endless. The Island government would, of course, control all development of the region.



Peter Goldring, MP Edmonton East, Brad Sigouin and Richard Pearson of "A Place in the Sun" and Massimo Pacetti, MP Saint-Léonard—Saint-Michel

Popular support among Islanders for a relationship with Canada has declined from twenty years ago, when an estimated 90% of the population supported exploring some form of union. Twenty years ago, it was the Canadian government that rejected the Islanders' overtures, for reasons that might be regarded now as somewhat shortsighted amidst the multicultural mêlé that is 21<sup>st</sup>



century Canada. Twenty years ago the Canadian government appeared to be concerned more with possible racial and cultural disharmonies than with benefits gained by mutually combining our cultural and economic efforts. It is because the Islands' past friendly overtures were rejected that it is estimated by some that the support among islanders for a renewed discussion for a relationship with Canada is not the 90% as before, but now at around 60%.

Provincial status is being proposed for the Turks and Caicos so that it could be an impressive influence in the Caribbean region, politically and economically. The Turks and Caicos could become a model of economic diversity and social well being for the region. Given its provincial status, there would also be respect for the culture of the Turks and

Caicos, as a matter of course. This is because a provincial Turks and Caicos government would operate in ways that should not run counter to the "full internal governance" platform of the current Turks and Caicos government. Canada's constitution specifically respects provincial jurisdictional independence, reinforced by decades of constitutional debate. The legacy of such federal respect is found in the greatly enhanced autonomy of Canada's current ten provinces, which has

evolved over time. Such federal enhancement and respect for provincial autonomy complements the initiative to explore the possibility of bringing another province—the Turks and Caicos—into the Confederation.

Most recently, Canadian provinces have lobbied for greater control over immigration, using our Quebec model of a provincial immigration control regime as a precedent. That very precedent might mean that certain specific immigration requirements of a Turks

and Caicos government should not run counter to the proposed provincial status that is being explored. It is also worthwhile to look to Canadian experiences with regional economic development to see how economic development in the Turks and Caicos could grow, without threatening the cultural or territorial integrity of the

islands. Due to the relatively undeveloped current state of the Turks and Caicos, there is a rare opportunity to be able to custom design the Islands' future, according to the wishes of its residents, to ensure balances among natural and population ecologies and economic benefits. With a resplendent canvas of such pristine beauty in the Islands, great care must be taken with the brushes of progress to preserve the artwork of nature.



Interior of one of the oldest churches on Grand Turks. The history of the Islands is that of being the earliest exploration land point contact of the Americans by Europeans

For all parties of interest, I believe that efforts at this point should be spent reinforcing our mutual friendship and engaging in constructive dialogue, informing citizens of both Canada and the Turks and Caicos of the social and economic benefits possible in proceeding and giving reassurance that every and all contemplations will involve those most important to a final decision, the people. Only at that time--not today, not tomorrow or even this year--a question should be asked of all Islanders and Canadians, based on a full understanding by all of the initiative.

It is a huge step for both countries to take. Canada, often thought of as a benevolent

northern giant, and whose last confederated province was a British territory, Newfoundland in 1949, is wrestling with this new expansionism prospect but does not want to be thought of as a colonialist. For the Turks and Caicos Islands, the relationship with England has served Islanders very well. The Islanders live in one of the most stable and peaceful nations in the Caribbean. They nonetheless want to grow and to find that particular association that will permit them to reach their full potential. Confederation with Canada – Maybe? Perhaps the time has come to end the courtship and to finally be wed.

**Update:** Member of Parliament and committee Member Massimo Pacetti spoke with Prime Minister Paul Martian who has in turn talked to Chief Minister Michael Misick about an official visit to Ottawa. Efforts to encourage exploration and dialogue leading to a formal relation is across Political Party Lines.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Your Opinion Matters...</b></p> <p><b>Question #1</b> Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and farm products in the Caribbean and South America?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No         </p> <p><b>Question #2</b> Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should continue exploratory talks for a possible union to be ratified by all citizens of both countries?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No         </p> <p>Comments: _____          _____          _____</p>	<p>Name: _____          Address: _____          City: _____          Postal Code: _____          Telephone: _____</p> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto;"> <p>No Postage Required</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p><b>Peter Goldring</b>  <b>Member of Parliament</b>  <b>Edmonton Centre-East</b>  <b>House of Commons</b>  <b>Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6</b></p> </div>
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# WILL CANADA BECOME

# A CARIBBEAN NATION?

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Since September 11 traditional markets have become more difficult to access for political, security and competitive reasons. Canada must explore other opportunities and seek out new trade and economic relationships. The Caribbean is one such desirable trade area.

The enthusiasm for an expanded relationship between the Turks and Caicos Islands and Canada continues to grow. Numerous calls and letters have flowed in from supporters across Canada and the Islands, excited by the possibility of a Canadian Caribbean Confederation. While confederating with the Turks and Caicos may well be an elusive goal, it is well worth exploring the potential that could better position Canada to expand its trade and political influence to the Caribbean and Caribbean "RIM" Nations.

In the spring of 2004, both Prime Minister Paul Martin and Leader of the Official Opposition Stephen Harper indicated a willingness to meet with the elected Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos, Dr. Michael Eugene Misick.

However, because of the election campaign uncertainty the status of the meeting is presently unclear. Despite the delay, the will and desire to meet represented a significant step forward in the relationship from previous years and decades when such a relationship was rejected by the Federal Government in the past. While much has been previously written of the numerous benefits to both Canada and the Turks and Caicos for such

a union, it is also important to examine the international implications and benefits associated with such a venture, particularly the colonial history of Turks and Caicos, its relationship with the United Kingdom, trade and security in the region, and how a union with Canada would happen.

The Turks and Caicos have a colonial legacy much like Canada and other Caribbean nations in the region. It has been under the control of both the British Jamaican and Bahamas Governors, but later was issued an independent Governor when both Jamaica and



Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East is promoting close social & economic ties with the Caribbean group of nations.



the Bahamas gained independence. The independence of Caribbean nations happened in the international anti-colonial context of the 1960's, where many former colonies were gaining independence either through armed revolution or peaceful transition. The union of the Turks and Caicos with Canada would represent a natural progression of its pragmatic and peaceful history, melding quite nicely with our own progression to democratic rule and independence from the British Empire over 135 years ago.

Despite near self-rule, Turks and Caicos remains an overseas territory of the United Kingdom. Legally this entails some constitutional control by the United Kingdom in the areas of security and foreign policy, while practically the Islands maintain an internal democratic form of government and independence. Because of their connection to the United Kingdom, the residents of Turks and Caicos also enjoy participation in the European Union (EU), including the right to relocate and receive education in EU member states and to receive development aid from the United Kingdom and the EU. The Turks and Caicos Islands are one of twenty island and island chains that are overseas protectorates or territories of states such as Denmark, the Netherlands, France, and the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom remains committed to the

Turks and Caicos as an Overseas Territory for as long as they wish to sustain the relationship. In this respect, the United Kingdom represents no impediment should a merger with Canada become desirous. In fact, built on the United Kingdom's stated principles of respect for overseas territory sovereignty, they would readily defer to any democratic wish by the people of Turks and Caicos to pursue their own destiny with Canada.

Regionally, the Turks and Caicos also participate as an Associate Member in the Caribbean Community or CARICOM. CARICOM integrates its members into a common market economy, while also dealing with regional security issues like the recent troubling events in Haiti. The Turks and Caicos Islands recently gave permission for Canada to stage its troops

before landing in Haiti. The islands' participation as a Canadian province in CARICOM would provide an excellent institutional, economic, and security segue into the Caribbean community for Canada. Canadian trade and influence could be greatly expanded into the region. While CARICOM represents only a small portion of the countries in the region, they represent a growing population of over five million people, and close to a \$2 billion economy. By joining with the Turks and Caicos, Canada will be participating in an



Brad Sigoun, MP Peter Goldring Edmonton East, MP  
Massimo Pacetti, Saint Leonard-Saint-Michael with  
Rosemarie Wilson, Turks & Caicos Agent.



exciting and dynamic new economy that will greatly add to and diversify both countries economic outlook.

In recent years Canada’s traditional trading partners for manufactured finished goods, forestry, cattle and farm products have shrunk for a variety of competitive and political reasons. A substantive trade market exists throughout the Caribbean for these and other Canadian resource and manufactured products. Canadian maritime container shipping ports can actively develop this trade potential through a deep water distribution port developed in the Turks and Caicos designed to serve domestic requirements but also a population of over 100 million persons of not only the Caribbean market but also Caribbean RIM countries such as Mexico, Central American states, and portions of South America.



**Peter Goldring MP Edmonton East at Tourism Trade Show with Rosemarie Wilson, Turks and Caicos Agent and Anne Broban, Caribbean Tourism Organization.**

In contemplating a union between Canada and the Turks and Caicos, there are some issues that must be resolved, such as the concerns over the Turks and Caicos financial and banking sectors. However, these concerns are now being addressed, as the islands have begun a process of financial sector reform in keeping with their territorial agreement with the United Kingdom.

Canada is able to provide a stable economic and political transition in conjunction with a confederation with the Turks and Caicos Islands. This could be accomplished with

the federal government establishing a coastal protection and patrol base with search and rescue helicopter provisions. Similarly, a commitment by Canada in areas such as post-secondary education will help address the need for greatly increased training for expanded economic and employment opportunities in a diversified Turks and Caicos marketplace.

Besides an economic transition, Canada would also instigate a parliamentary process for the addition of the Turks and Caicos Islands to Confederation. The most likely scenario is that Turks and Caicos would be invited into Confederation much like Newfoundland was invited in 1949. Canada’s Constitution does provide for additional members in Confederation, with the Turks and Caicos Islands having control over provincial areas of interests, while also specifically having input in areas such as the culture and immigration.

The international context points to exciting possibilities for both Canada and the Turks and Caicos. In our emerging century, new forms of governance are taking hold, with old forms of state governance falling away. We can see this in the newly emerging European Union, or Organization of African States. In summary, these trends coupled with Canada and Turks and Caicos Islands’ joint history, point to significant potential for a new relationship, potentially even provincial status, and

include more specifically:

A peaceful colonial history that mimics Canada's own move towards confederation and independence from Britain

- A willing and respectful United Kingdom, which has already provided the institutional relationship with parliamentary democracy and respect for territorial sovereignty
- A dynamic and emerging regional trading and governance bloc—CARICOM—that can provide enhanced potential for Canadian trade products in the region
- A Canadian constitutional process of federalism that will constitutionally respect the Islands' unique history and culture
- A positive business outlook for both the

Turks and Caicos and Canada while providing improved constitutional provisos for the Turks and Caicos Islands within provincial rule.

- A closer association with the Caribbean specifically represented by the province of Turks and Caicos Islands could only enhance trade, cultural, humanitarian, and security interests for all concerned

What is required now is the political will and vision to make it happen. Should we finally ask the question, end our long-standing dalliance, and ask the Turks and Caicos to officially become our eleventh province—what do you think?

**Update:** All party support for this initiative is expected to be renewed on the resumption of Parliament this fall with a viewpoint to explore close association between Canada and the diverse countries and protectorates of the Caribbean in order to enhance trade cultural, humanitarian and security interest for all concern.

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Yes

No

**Question #2** Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should continue exploratory talks for a possible union to be ratified by all citizens of both countries?

Yes

No

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**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



September 7th—Hurricane Ivan veered away from a path expected to strike St. Lucia and Barbados and instead plowed into Grenada, a island considered out of the Hurricane Alley in the Caribbean. I decided to visit Grenada to assess her needs in Ivan's aftermath.

The strength of Hurricane Ivan, which struck Grenada on September 7, was estimated minimally at 150 mph or 240 kmph winds, with tornado gusts of who knows what strength. With heavy sheet metal roofing torn off buildings lodged a mile away and with roof tiles flying like shrapnel, it is a wonder that hundreds did not perish.

The scene while flying in a Canadian-made Dash 8 flown by Liat Air from Barbados, over the Grenadines towards Grenada, was so picturesque. Idyllic small islands of lush foliage, sandy bays ringed with small colourful communities, both power and sail boats riding the waves. Then Grenada. Grenada's shore approaches. Immediately, the view of the scene is decidedly different, as multiple bright blue rooftops appear: the organized blue of emergency tarpaulins amidst the shattered remnants of homes beyond repair. The landscape is strewn with the refuse of the aftermath of a once in 50 year disaster.



Standing in the ruins of a resort hotel in Grenada is John Miller with hotel owner. This is but one example of Ivan's devastation of the hotel industry.

Landing at Point Salines Airport in Grenada, a debarkation stair vehicle was tossed by the wind into a field between runways. The drive from the airport was surreal. The devastation of the island was nearly complete, with the resilience of the islanders being one of the main elements left standing. The mainstay crop of nutmeg—30% of the country's export income—was totally destroyed.

The trees that were not uprooted and broken apart were totally stripped of foliage from the winds of the storm. The crop won't return for 10 years. The market for Caribbean



nutmeg may be lost for many more years.

Boats in the harbour were blasted ashore and literally stacked on one another. Even forty foot catamarans, large stable crafts, were stripped of their masts and then flipped like pancakes into the melee. The Parliament buildings, major churches, schools, the jail and the governor's residence are all suffering from the same hurricane bomb blast damage as were homes and businesses. Two weeks after the disaster, the population is still stranded in absolute shock and squalor. Cell phone service has returned, but there is no power. No electricity to keep fresh fruit, vegetables, meats and daily produce cool, but not to worry—they're not available anyway.



Former resident of Trenton Ontario who recently sold his house to buy a boat, now wrecked by Ivan, standing with Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament.

The people and equipment of DART are the frontlines of Canada's disaster assistance response capability that is not being called out. Why?

Grenada needs disaster assistance, emergency supplies, and a security team presence now. Then Grenada needs the helping hand up to return business and industry to sufficiency. Neighbouring Caribbean countries are all gathering to help. The people of Grenada are finding the resolve and fortitude to pick them-

Where is Canada? The thirsty, the hungry, the homeless and the threatened cannot drink, eat, house or police themselves with mere relief cheques. Dollars cannot feed the hungry. Dollars cannot shelter the homeless or secure the threatened. Canada's 200 person Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is still waiting in Kingston for orders that haven't come.

selves up and prepare to rebuild, but much help is needed. Perhaps as a signal of Canada's renewed social and economic interest in Caribbean markets, a strong, positive humanitarian gesture would be particularly appropriate at this time. Now being overshadowed by the disaster in Haiti, the urgency of the needs in Grenada becomes lost in public and political perceptions and priorities. Canada could right now be contributing by at least helping to quickly rebuild the island schools. The children must return to school, away from their damaged homes, while their parents rebuild their lives.



In the short term, massive humanitarian assistance is required. In the medium term, the rebuilding of the infrastructure and the businesses of trade and tourism is crucial. Hotel and business owners must be encourage by government to rebuild and to reopen, in order to recreate the jobs based on foreign dollars that are desperately needed. In the longer term, it is important to work with other countries to develop a strategy to diversify the economy of Grenada and which meets with the aspirations of Grenadians. With other countries, Canada should offer to be part of a more complete rapid reaction group of nations, capable of responding to the needs of national calamities in the area. For an emerging response unit such as DART to never leave the “garage” is a sad testament to both poor planning and ineffectual geopolitical engagement by Canada. It is important to mention that in this disaster, many countries have pulled together to help. Fortunately for Grenada, Venezuela and Trinidad immediately sent troops to provide civil stability and assistance. Many Caribbean countries have mounted individual publicly supported relief efforts to raise funds. Canada has sent \$500,000 to the



MP Peter Goldring thanks Canadian High Commissioner of the Eastern Caribbean region of countries, Michael Welsh, for all the help and assistance of him and his office.

Canada has sent \$500,000 to the

Red Cross and has apparently offered another \$1,000,000 in assistance. However, Canada has no presence on the frontlines of direct humanitarian assistance other than the Canadian High Commission and his staff who obviously see the need for more help. Even first rate representation by the High Commissioner Michael Walsh and his advisors can only do so much with such limited resources.

The disaster in Grenada points to the fact that few governments ever plan for a calamity that absolutely flattens their country. In such completely unanticipated circumstances, a helping hand is needed in many ways, and for a very long time—long after the sensational news headlines fade. While Canada’s commitment to help, however limited over the long-term, is appreciated, its contribution to short-term emergency needs remains rather lacklustre and quite frankly surprising. A more robust commitment to provide both short-term and longer-term assistance will go a long way to strengthening Canada’s relationship with Grenada and the other countries of the Caribbean Rim.

While hurricanes have ravaged the Carib-

bean this year, relief efforts, including Canadian relief efforts, are essential for all concerned. Because of Canada and other's response delays, this also becomes a time to seriously consider how future natural disasters in the Caribbean and throughout the world might better be addressed by Canada and the international community. Responding to calamities befalling the Caribbean in the future could be greatly improved by a permanent Canadian platform of social, economic and humanitarian aid operations being located in the region. There has been interest expressed for much improved social-economic relations with Canada by several Caribbean countries.

Canada has an excellent name throughout the region, built up by well over 100 years of trading and immigration to and from the region. Canadian presence and influence in the region has been diminishing of late, to the detriment of Canada and the Canadian government, in terms of mutual economic and political benefits. Today, Canadians in large numbers vacation in the Caribbean. Meanwhile, mainland China, Taiwan, Japan and Venezuela are growing in economic influence in the region; Canada must do better socially and economically, but first must do better in the humanitarian field.

**Update:** Two weeks after Grenada was hit by Ivan, Haiti and the Cayman Islands were also hit. Haiti is particularly suffering with extensive loss of life, hunger, and disease. Serious questions have arose concerning Canada's social, economic, and humanitarian response to the disasters.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Should we seek export markets in the Caribbean for Canadian business and farm products?

Yes       No

**Question #2** Should Canada have sent the DART response team to Grenada to help?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
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# The Caribbean And Canada

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Many appreciate the benefits of enhanced economic and related relationships between Canada and countries of the Caribbean Rim. There is also a growing appreciation that such market expansion is a matter of economic imperative, based on a need to have a more diversified export market for Canada.

## Overview

Last year, I spent considerable time and effort exploring political and economic opportunities for a special relationship between Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands. While discussions continue, the majority public response, particularly in Canada, has been quite positive. The effort certainly demonstrated the need and desire for more intensified dialogue on issues of common concern throughout the Caribbean region.

Recent events unfolding in the Caribbean call for a further review of our Caribbean relationship beyond a political and economic review to include security and humanitarian issues. In particular, political instability in Haiti

compounded by weak national security, raised concerns as to the effectiveness of Canada's multimillion dollar foreign aid contributions to the rebuilding of Haiti. In early 2004, Canada also was asked to send 500 troops as part of a United Nations security team deployed in Haiti. In August of 2004, well in advance of the completion of the UN mandate in Haiti—which continues to this day--Canada's forces were inexplicably withdrawn. Within weeks, former members of the Haitian army were occupying police stations and entire towns within 60 miles of the capital, Port-Au-Prince. Just this past weekend, two United Nations peacekeepers were shot, amidst continuing deteriorations of social order.



Hurricane Ivan devastated Grenada, destroying or damaging 90% of all buildings. Canadian aid could have at least helped to rebuild schools.

Then much of the Caribbean region was affected by the devastation of Hurricane Ivan and Tropical Storm Jeanne. Haiti, Grenada and the Cayman Islands were particularly affected. In the case of Grenada and the Cayman Islands,

virtually the entire geographical area was destroyed. This widespread destruction was accompanied by death, injury and social disorder. In the case of Haiti, the ravages of Hurricane Ivan were significant with large areas under water, though the primary loss of life occurred from mudslides around Gonaives caused



by Tropical Storm Jeanne.

My initial view of my Critic role was that it would be an opportunity to encourage the enhancement of political, social, and economic relationships with the countries and territories of the Caribbean Rim. One reason for this redirection of Canadian regional interests is the fact that protectionist sentiments in an increasingly globalized marketplace has resulted in greater restrictions on the export of Canadian goods. Our principal trading partner, the United States, has closed its borders to Canadian beef and, previously, had acted to restrict Canadian softwood lumber exports. It is clear that Canada must intensify its foreign affairs efforts to seek new and favourable export markets and economic opportunities.

Given the devastation from Hurricane Ivan, focus changed to that of analyzing and encouraging Canada's humanitarian contribution to the region. I visited the east Caribbean region during the week of September 19, ten days after Hurricane Ivan had hit. My visit was intended to be a fact-finding mission relating to humanitarian concerns and the prospect for enhanced economic opportunities for Canada in the Caribbean. In the company of the Canadian High Commissioner to Barbados, Michael Welsh, I visited the devastated island of Grenada. I then held trade and economic development talks with government and business representatives in St. Lucia, Dominica and Barbados.

## An Enhanced Canadian Economic, Cultural, Humanitarian and Security Role in the Caribbean: General

While hurricanes have ravaged the Caribbean this year, rapid response relief efforts, including Canadian relief efforts are essential for all concerned. Because of delays in response on the part of Canada and other nations, we must seriously consider how future natural disasters in the Caribbean and throughout the world might better be addressed by our country and the international community. Re-



Meeting in St. Lucia with Mr. Cosmos Richardson, Permanent Secretary of External Affairs, and other officials discussing economic development interests.

sponding to calamities befalling the Caribbean in the future could be greatly improved by a permanent Canadian platform of social, economic, and humanitarian aid operations being located in the region. While too early to precisely define the nature of a Canadian-Caribbean platform, a greatly improved regional influence would be very advantageous to all. This view is supported by interest expressed by the governments of several Caribbean countries in improving closer social and economic relations with Canada.

Canada has an excellent name throughout the region, built up by well over 100 years of trading and migration to and from the region. Canadian presence and influence in the region has been diminishing of late, to the detriment of Canada, in terms of mutual economic and politi-



cal benefits. As Canadian manufacturers and food processors rely heavily on a north-south distribution system, through the United States, little current Canadian trade with the Caribbean makes the journey through the American trade filter. Today, Canadians in large numbers vacation in the Caribbean. However, Canadian-made consumer goods and food products are scarcely on the Caribbean store shelves, even though Caribbean nations seeking more and more from alternate sources to American suppliers. In response, mainland China, Taiwan, Japan, and Venezuela are growing in economic influence in the region. Economic influence becomes interrelated with economic aid. For example, China is building schools and athletic stadiums in the region, while Japan has constructed a major fishing port in Dominica. Canada can do much better socially and economically in the region, but first we must do better in the humanitarian field—consistent with the constructive patterns of influence of other nations.

With the international competitive pressures mounting in traditional markets for Canadian products, we simply must explore other market possibilities. The Caribbean is a natural, neighbourly, and friendly place for renewed Canadian economic attention. Caribbean countries are actively seeking alliances for economic and social benefit. This is the time for Canada to aggressively renew and pursue significant economic and social relationship with the countries

and territories of the Caribbean Rim.

Based on the celebrated Canadian multicultural model, we are in a unique position to be a favoured partner in the Caribbean. We are sensitive to and understanding of the fact that



Peter Goldring, MP with the Honourable Edison C. James, MP and Leader of the U.W.P. Official Opposition Party of Dominica, discussing social-economic concerns.

Canadian economic growth in the Caribbean must occur in step with helping to bring about economic development, diversity and human security for our Caribbean partners. Put simply, Canada is a trusted partner in the eyes of the majority of countries in the Caribbean Rim. This allows further access and opportunity to areas such as the South America marketplace, in addition to the strict

Caribbean region.

### Common Economic Issues

A common concern among the Caribbean countries I visited was the sense that Canada was pulling back from the Caribbean, politically and economically, content to support tourism only. While the countries are perhaps small by themselves, the Eastern Caribbean Rim region represents a community and marketplace of over one million people, while its southern Caribbean Rim influence could be 20 million or more. The need for more active and conscientious Canadian engagement in the region is of prime concern. Canadian goals and policy in the region are somewhat haphazard and in need of refinement. Goals should be clearly established in relation to three principal areas:

economic development, disaster management and humanitarian assistance. There is much interest in the region for enhanced Canadian involvement to develop a direct, deep water trade route to Canada, for Canadian economic involvement or partnership in value added diversified farm production, food processing, manufacturing and facility construction, as well as for involvement in business and personal telecommunication delivery systems, geothermal energy sources and free trade transshipping ports.

### Conclusion

My visit to Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Dominica, demonstrated that an enhanced relationship with Canada is very much sought and desired by our friends in the Caribbean.

They also want Canada to develop stronger working relationships with established regional organizations, such as CARICOM (the Caribbean Community and Common Market) and OECS (the Organization of East Caribbean States). Canada should seek closer associations with the diverse countries, protectorates and representative organizations of the Caribbean for the enhancement of trade, economic development, cultural, humanitarian and security interests for all concerned. Of greatest importance is the basic fact that if Canada will not engage the Caribbean in these areas, others will gladly do so, resulting in major lost opportunities for Canada.

**Update:** Recent events in Haiti involving disintegrating civil control and desperate need for aid securely delivered to the most needy, raises the spectre that a re-examination of foreign aid, foreign affairs, and economic engagement with the centres of the Caribbean is necessary.

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#### Your Opinion Matters...

**Question #1** Should we seek economic development opportunities in the Caribbean for Canadian business and farming industries?

Yes       No

**Question #2** Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and farm products in the Caribbean and South America?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Caribbean Opportunities

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

**My September visit to four eastern Caribbean nations—St. Lucia, Dominica, Barbados, and Grenada—has generated exceptional goodwill overall and, in particular, demonstrated our concerns for Canada's Caribbean neighbors in their time of need and demonstrated Canada's willingness to assist in providing humanitarian assistance.**

## Overview

The Canadian High Commissioner in Barbados, Michael Welsh, who is also responsible for Canada's diplomatic relations with several other eastern Caribbean nations, accompanied me on my visit to Grenada, devastated by Hurricane Ivan. The High Commissioner also facilitated a number of meetings in Barbados with concerned officials, including the British High Commissioner in Grenada, Victor Wallis, as well as arranging for a luncheon with Caribbean business leaders. My office did an exemplary job of organizing my visit to Grenada and Barbados with the High Commissioner, as well as organizing my visit to St. Lucia and Dominica with their respective governments. The fol-

lowing is a short report on each of the four Eastern Caribbean countries visited.

## Barbados

Barbados is one of the most established and economically diverse islands in the region. Barbados has a significant financial sector and an international shipping industry, in which Canada Steamship Lines is one of the many international participants flying the Barbadian flag.

Barbados is also a well known tourist destination for North Americans. While many Canadians line Barbadian beaches, Canadian products were not as abundant on Barbadian store shelves, which suggests great potential for Canadian economic and trade interests. In Barbados, High Commissioner Michael Welsh facilitated a number of meetings and held a luncheon with significant business and government officials to discuss the

economic relationship between Canada and the Caribbean. Persons in attendance included senior representatives of the Royal Bank and Stantec Consulting, one of Canada's largest engineering firms, headquartered in Edmonton, employing 4,000 persons worldwide. Also in-



**A giant automobile transfer ship from Japan in harbour of Dominica delivering used failed emission standard cars and trucks.**



cluded were representatives of Trilon International (international banking and finance, based in Toronto), Sypher Mueller International Inc. (airport designing, based in Ottawa), Digital Rez and Gildan Activewear (based in Montreal). Political interest in the Caribbean economy by Canada's Official Opposition Party was most welcomed by the meeting's participants.

**Grenada**

Flying over Grenada, one can tell that the devastation is extensive, with over 90% of the buildings destroyed or damaged and with the foliage on the island stripped bare. The first security forces to assist in maintaining order and providing humanitarian assistance to Grenada arrived from Trinidad and Tobago, and from Venezuela. While Venezuela is in the midst of an ongoing territorial dispute with Grenada over an island in the deep sea oil and gas field, Venezuela is also regarded as being close to Cuba in terms of its international political outlook.

Grenada's largest export crop of nutmeg is wiped out, as trees have been stripped or knocked over. Estimates of a ten year recovery period spell disaster for the island's agricultural exports. Venezuela has offered to rebuild schools, while in time insurance claims will help rebuild the resorts. Economic opportunities, while quite secondary to present emergency needs, nonetheless are vital to providing much needed future jobs and foreign income. This

year's hurricane season demonstrated the need for a more robust Canadian emergency response capability in the Caribbean and the political capability to see it through. At a minimum, there must be a renewed commitment to increasing our political and economic operational capabilities with the associated states of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) and to thereby ensure the more effective distribution of Canadian aid, disaster response supplies, and funds, in Grenada and elsewhere.



**Member of Parliament Peter Goldring meeting with a Member of Parliament and Senator from the island nation of Dominica.**

**St. Lucia**

In St. Lucia, I met with many government officials, including: the Permanent Secretary of Tourism Mary Falwell, Opposition Leader Marcus Nicholas, and the Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs Cosmos Richardson. St. Lucia has some major economic concerns. The export economy is highly dependent on a primary crop: bananas. St. Lucia wishes to move towards diversification of the island's industry and economy to avoid the boom and bust economic cycles associated with poor crop yields and climatic devastations. Both St. Lucia and Dominica will soon face catastrophic shutdowns of banana crop exports as the European Union removes the favoured trade status that the two countries had enjoyed, through their association with Great Britain. At the same time, competition with large Central American plantations will leave St. Lucia and Dominica with little or no remaining market, unless their major crop is



either value added processed to other exportable items or replaced with other marketable export crops. St. Lucia benefits from aid assisted projects by other countries, such as a school being financed by mainland China. The major import in the country is oil, reflecting the fact that 100% of electricity is generated through the use of imported oil. St. Lucian officials expressed great openness to Canadian business and trade interests, to help diversify the St. Lucian economy.

**Dominica**

In Dominica, I met with Opposition Leader and former Prime Minister, the Hon. Edison James, Minister of Tourism Charles Savarin, Minister of Community Development Matthew Walter and Minister of Foreign Affairs Osbourne Riviere. Dominica has similar economic concerns as St. Lucia, with a greater need for economic diversification, due to an agricultural sector (18% of GDP), which is highly vulnerable to international supply/demand issues and climatic conditions. It is said that no person need ever starve on Dominica, as there is an overabundance of food—so much so that various food items end up rotting on the plants, due to a lack of processing and shipping facilities, as well as a lack of developed export markets. There is a potential here for Dominican-Canadian joint ventures that would benefit both countries.

Dominica has a rocky, black volcanic

sand beached coastline conducive to the “ecotourism” field, for the more adventurous tourist wishing to explore its combination of rocky coastlines and lush tropical forests. At the same time, Dominica has particular economic advantages. Dominica produces half of its electric power requirements by hydro means and also has substantial geothermal power generation potential. On the shopping list of needs are roads, hotels and a new international airport to serve a growing interest in ecotourism. In addition, Dominica is home to a substantial number of members of the Caribbean’s aboriginal community, whose unique culture

should be preserved and protected. While Dominica has many challenges, it also has great opportunities for Canadian interests, particularly in areas of product manufacturing and imports.

**Common Economic Issues**

A common concern among the Caribbean countries I visited was the sense that Canada was pulling back from the Caribbean, politically and economically. The Eastern Caribbean region of countries alone represents a marketplace of over one million people, while its southern Caribbean Rim influence is 20 million or more. The population influences of the entire Caribbean Rim of nations is over 120 million. The need for more active and conscientious Canadian engagement in the region is



**Cruise ship in harbour of St. Lucia. Many island nations are questioning the economic value versus the ecological impact of the cruise ship industry.**

paramount. Canadian goals and policy in the region are in need of refinement. Goals should be clearly established in relation to three principal areas: political engagement, economic development, and humanitarian/security assistance. There is much interest in the region for enhanced Canadian involvement to develop a regular, direct, deep water trade route to Canada, for Canadian partnership in value added diversified farm production, food processing, manufacturing and facility construction, as well as for involvement in business and personal telecommunication delivery systems, geothermal energy sources and free trade transshipping ports.

**Conclusion**

My visit to Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Dominica, demonstrated that the Caribbean countries welcome Canada to develop stronger working relationships with established regional organizations, such as CARICOM (the Caribbean Community and Common Market) and OECS (the Organization of East Caribbean States). Canada should seek closer associations with the diverse countries, protectorates and representative organizations of the Caribbean for the enhancement of trade, economic development, cultural, humanitarian and security interests for all concerned. If Canada is not prepared to reengage the Caribbean in these areas, others will gladly do so, resulting in significant lost opportunities for Canada.

**Update:** In late October, Marcus Nicholas, Member of Parliament and leader of the Official Opposition in St. Lucia, informed our office of his desire to visit Canada to speak with our party leader and other government officials. It is hoped that this visit will be encouraged by those who appreciate the political and economic benefits, to Canada and to the Caribbean generally, of this type of interface.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Should we seek economic development opportunities in the Caribbean for Canadian business and farming industries?

Yes       No

**Question #2** Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and farm products in the Caribbean and South America?

Yes       No

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# Haiti In Crisis

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



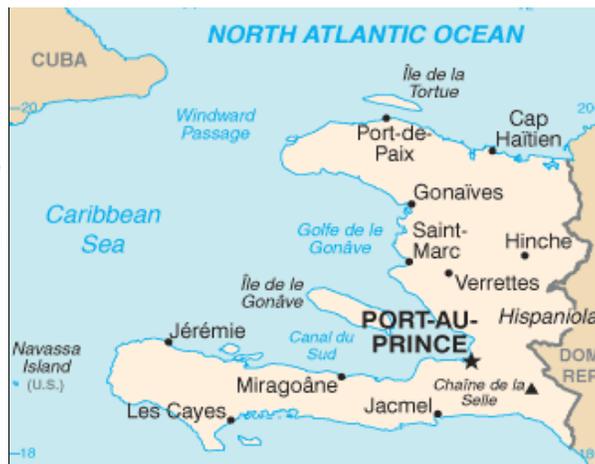
PETER GOLDRING

Unrelenting civil disorder in Haiti continues, including multiple murders of police and civilians, despite months of international effort to bring order and stability to the country. Throughout last fall, matters were aggravated by the effects of Hurricane Ivan and Tropical Storm Jeanne, which has created a humanitarian crisis in Haiti.

Haiti was well short of the 100 police officers initially committed by Canada. Canadian medical relief workers sponsored by Quebec, operating in and around the storm-ravaged Haitian city of Gonaïves, became Canada's principal "front line" presence in Haiti, largely unprotected.

In August of 2004, Canada's 500-troop UN peacekeeping contingent to Haiti was inexplicably withdrawn. The contingent had been sent in February, 2004 and staged from the Turks and Caicos Islands, to help the United States and France secure Haiti after the overthrow of the Aristide regime. The withdrawal of Canadian troops occurred at the very time that the United Nations security requirement for Haiti was staffed at only 50% of the recommended troop strength of approximately 6,000. Subsequent to August of 2004, Canada continued its contribution of financial aid to Haiti, but contributed very few personnel beyond some 50 police officers. Even sending 50 police officers to

By way of contrast, citizens of Grenada were shocked by the nature and extent of civil disorder that followed the August devastation of that country by Hurricane Ivan, which damaged or destroyed 90% of all buildings. It was through the quick and direct intervention of security forces, primarily from Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, that civil order was restored. Similarly decisive security actions are required in Haiti, so that civil order may be finally restored and the delivery of aid and reconstruction assistance continued in an orderly manner. Restoration of order becomes particularly important in view of elections planned for November of 2005.



**Map of Haiti** - Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, and occupies the Western half of the island, with Port-au-Prince as its capital.

Prime Minister Martin visited Haiti for



but one day last November, accompanied by nine other Members of Parliament. This followed on the heels of a visit to Haiti by Foreign Affairs Minister Pettigrew, accompanied by ex-Minister Denis Coderre—a trip that was notable more for its cost than its outcome. Ex-Minister Coderre was later appointed the Prime Minister's "special advisor" on Haiti.

During the course of his November visit to Haiti, the Prime Minister publicly expressed his support for the U.S.-backed interim government in Haiti. He also stated that beyond pledging money, the world needed to focus on security as a priority in Haiti. The Prime Minister acknowledged that the world had largely "turned its back" on Haiti, and on the government of then President Aristide, ten years previously, and that this should not occur again.

The following issues must be addressed in formulating current Canadian policy towards Haiti:

- Had Canada not removed its 500 troops from Haiti last August, it would now be in a position to provide enhanced security and leadership to the UN peacekeeping force, which is now Brazilian-led. This force has operated at less than full

strength for most of its current deployment in Haiti. Even Canada's commitment of 100 police officers has not been honoured. It is time for Canada to re-assume a leadership role through a redeployment of much-needed Canadian peacekeepers and a full police commitment. Even China has a greater physical presence than Canada in Haiti now, having sent 125 of its own police officers to help maintain order.

- During my fact-finding trip to the East Caribbean in September of last year, I discovered a

widespread concern about Canada's association with the US and France in deposing the democratically elected Aristide government in Haiti. This action resulted in the member states of the principal social and economic union in the Caribbean, CARICOM, refusing to recognize the unelected interim Haitian government. Member states of CARICOM are deeply displeased with the fact that, shortly following the US and France-led overthrow of the Aristide regime, Canada, the United States and France inexplicably withdrew their forces from Haiti, thus contributing to the ensuing chaos. In effect, the strategic error of ten years ago identified by Prime Minister Martin has in fact been repeated through Can-



*The Haitian Flag* - The flag of the Republic of Haiti was adopted on May 18, 1803. The Haitian flag is a red and blue bicolor, reminiscent of its French colonial past.



ada's withdrawal of troops, just this past August.

- It is to be noted that Brazil, which now leads the UN peacekeeping force in Haiti, has cautioned against harsh measures being taken against Aristide supporters in Haiti, and has stated that Brazilian forces will remain in Haiti until fair elections are considered to have been held. France has formally declared that it is opposed to the return of Aristide in any event. Our Prime Minister should carefully reflect on the pros and cons of uncritically following a "US-France" line on the future of Haiti, in contrast to respecting CARICOM sensitivities. The Prime Minister will hopefully appreciate that he cannot please all displaced Haitians in Canada by favouring one government over another. What is most important is that all the people of Haiti embrace a peaceful and democratic process that will bring stability to the country.



Haitians going about their business in downtown Port-au-Prince in a local shopping district. Recent events in Haiti have made everyday activities like this difficult to engage in.

Caribbean nations in relation to Haiti's future and in relation to other geopolitical issues in the region.

In many respects, CARICOM members have a stronger emotional tie to Haiti and a stronger desire to help resolve matters than any larger, distant nation could possibly have. This Caribbean "family" behaviour was very much evident in the responses to last fall's disaster in Grenada, resulting from the devastation of Hurricane Ivan. Caribbean countries all pulled together to help, whether by way of providing troops, donations, supplies or even by way of the street side coin collection boxes for "Grenada trust" that I saw in Barbados and St. Lucia. While Caribbean nations remain fiercely independent, they will strongly pull together to help each other in crisis.

There are many more international implications to the situation in Haiti than may at first appear. At a minimum, respect should be accorded to the wishes and sensitivities of the CARICOM organization of

In my view, it is time for some fresh thinking with respect to the future of Canadian social, economic and humanitarian relationships with the Caribbean, such as that of establishing a permanent platform in the Caribbean to address Canadian-Caribbean interests. I favour consideration of the Turks and Caicos Islands, given long-standing interest on the part of residents of these islands for a more formal relationship

with Canada. Other Caribbean nations could also benefit, directly or indirectly, through such a Canadian platform in the Caribbean.

In a general sense, there must be greater Canadian political involvement in issues involving the Caribbean and in the representative organizations in the region, such as CARICOM. Canada is inextricably tied to the Caribbean through culture, immigration and history, but could do much better in the enhancement of its current economic and humanitarian efforts in the re-

gion. In an era of seeking new trade markets and development partnerships, Canada could and should be far more robustly engaged in the Caribbean. As Canada becomes less involved in the Caribbean, China, Taiwan, Japan, Brazil, Venezuela and a number of other countries are continuing efforts to establish their own major spheres of political and economic influence in the region. From the perspective of lost Canadian opportunities, this is a regrettable state of affairs.

**Update:** Recently, His Excellency Eduardo Fernandez of the Dominican Republic, met with Mr. Goldring to provide specific insights into the ongoing situation in Haiti. His Excellency Eduardo Fernandez also substantiated the widely held view in the Caribbean that Canada needs to be more aggressively engaged in Haiti, socially and economically, by more specifically directing foreign aid in the rebuilding of schools and educational infrastructure.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Should Canada's monetary aid be more focused on security and the rebuilding of education infrastructure in countries like Haiti?

Yes       No

**Question #2** Should Canada work more closely with CARICOM in establishing a functional democratic society in Haiti?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Turks and Caicos

# Update

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

In the spring of 2004, both Prime Minister Paul Martin and Leader of the Official Opposition, Stephen Harper, indicated a willingness to meet with the elected Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Dr. Michael Eugene Misick.

The 2004 federal election campaign, resulted in uncertainty regarding the status of the meeting. Despite the delay, the will and desire to meet represented a significant step forward in the relationship from previous years and decades when the Canadian Government had rejected such a relationship. Almost one full year later, a similar situation is unfolding. A proposed trip to Ottawa, by Chief Minister Michael Misick, for May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005, has been postponed due to concerns that another spring federal election in Canada may be close at hand.



Peter Goldring, MP Edmonton East, Brad Sigouin and Richard Pearson of "A Place in the Sun" and Massimo Pacetti, MP Saint Leonard-Saint Michel.

Efforts to move this initiative forward continue in spite of other political priorities, which currently must take precedence. I certainly maintain my belief that it is time to have the people speak up on the acceptability of a union between the two countries. Recall that the

last major effort to move forward a Canada-Turks and Caicos initiative, occurred in the 1980s when members of the Turks and Caicos government visited Ottawa to ask Canada to consider some form of "special relationship" with their country. At the time, the Mulroney government nixed the request. However, the world is very different now. Communications are instant; Computers and portable cellular phones have taken big business into small communities. People worldwide are now more interconnected through the Internet and a post-September 11<sup>th</sup> world has caused us to appreciate and value personal security and friendly places to visit.

Currently, some 450,000 Canadians now vacation in the Caribbean. Well over one million Canadians vacation outside of Canada leaving billions of dollars in foreign countries' coffers. If even 10 percent of this

vacation travel, or 100,000 people were to visit the Canadian province of Turks and Caicos, the social effects would be negligible but the boost to the islands economy would be incredible. However, I want to make it clear that access to a warm travel destination "within Canada" cannot or should not be the primary



motivation for any Canada-Turks and Caicos initiative moving forward. After all, some have argued that if the Turks and Caicos were to become Canada's 11<sup>th</sup> Province, the islands would become inundated by asylum-seekers from the Caribbean, as well as by Canadians wanting to move to the Turks and Caicos Islands permanently to build retirement condos.

The CBC's "The Fifth Estate," recently aired a program on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2005, which examined the concept of a Canada-Turks and Caicos Islands union. The program highlighted the racial tensions, which have

resulted from the building of retirement condos and other development initiatives on the islands. Recall that it is this concern over racial tensions, which was a critical factor in the Mulroney Cabinet nixing the idea of a Canada-Turks and Caicos Islands partnership in the 1980s. There is a concern expressed by many islanders, themselves, that the natural beauty and ecosystem of the islands could become degraded through over population. The unique situation of the Turks and Caicos calls for general recognition that exceptional measures must be taken with Provincial regulation of immigration and residency to preserve its unique culture from being inundated with immigrants, while at the same time encouraging investors and tourists. Here, Canada's multiculturalism policy could play a prominent role in helping to safeguard and preserve Island-

ers' culture from becoming adversely affected by development initiatives, be they Canadian or foreign.

With the recent involvement of Canadian troops in Haiti, there is another dimension

that merits consideration when addressing whether Canada should have a more formal relationship with the Turks and Caicos Islands. While Canadian peacekeeping expertise is called for in the Caribbean, the home base of any operation is extremely remote. If Turks and Caicos were Canada's 11<sup>th</sup> Province, Canada would be in a position

to more readily offer assistance. For example, Canada could have facilities on the islands for a 1000 member rotated security and patrol force involved in tropical training exercises supported by long range search and rescue helicopter and coastal patrol boats. This force would include members from the islands who have chosen to join Canada's security forces and would be readily available for natural disasters and emergencies. It is worth noting that there are social problems that are common to both countries. Canada and the Turks and Caicos have immigration and illegal drug trafficking difficulties—coincidentally of considerable concern to their shared neighbouring country, the United States. A common immigration and anti-drug strategy by both regions would be beneficial to help resolve, or at least minimize these difficulties.



January 2004-The Turks and Caicos Islands Chief Minister, the Honourable Michael Misick, meets with Member of Parliament Peter Goldring, on Grand Turks.



Enthusiasm for an expanded relationship between the Turks and Caicos Islands and Canada continues to exist. Numerous calls and letters have flowed in from supporters across Canada and the Islands, excited by the possibility of a

Canadian-Caribbean Confederation. While confederating with the Turks and Caicos may well be an elusive goal, I believe it is equally relevant to explore the potential that could better position Canada to expand a positive trade and political influence to the Caribbean and Caribbean "RIM" Nations. Regionally, the

Turks and Caicos also participate as an Associate Member in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM is currently integrating its members into a common market economy, while also dealing with regional security issues such as those, which continue to unfold in Haiti. In March 2004, the Turks and Caicos Islands gave permission for Canada to stage its troops before landing in Haiti. The islands' participation as a Canadian Province in CARICOM would provide an excellent institutional, economic and security segue into the Caribbean Community for Canada. Canadian trade and influence could be greatly expanded into the region in a positive way. This would be historic and would elevate the stature of both Canada and the Caribbean on the world stage.

While CARICOM represents only seven

percent of the countries in the region, they represent a growing population of over 14 million and a US\$46 billion economy. By joining with Turks and Caicos, Canada would be participating in an exciting and dynamic new economy that would greatly add to and diversify

both countries' economic outlook. While Canada would be expanding its positive influence South into the Caribbean region through CARICOM, an historic event would be observed world wide as the Canadian province of Turks and Caicos became the first Caribbean member of the G8 nations. The Turks and Caicos Islands currently have

one of the most successful economies in the entire Caribbean region. Through "Provincial Status," Canada could demonstrate good faith in their islands' economic success by giving them a voice at the table of the G8 nations.

The opportunities presented by Canada pursuing closer economic ties with the Caribbean are further revealed through Canada's new *International Policy Statement* of April 2005, which spoke of Canada taking a more prominent role in world affairs. As part of Canada's newly released Foreign Policy Review Strategy, the Canadian Government expressed its desire, among other things, to establish new markets and trade opportunities with Brazil. Other than an expressed commitment to continue economic support to Haiti, no larger Canadian strategy to engage the Carib-



**Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands Jim Poston and Canadian Member of Parliament Peter Goldring conclude a very cordial meeting.**

bean RIM region and the South American market was outlined in the Government's Foreign Policy Review Statement. Through the establishment of closer economic and political ties with CARICOM, Canada could be partnering with a region that is a geographical doorway to Brazil and South America. I firmly believe the Government of Canada is demonstrating a lack of vision in failing to see the importance of the Caribbean RIM region to Canadian foreign and trade policy.

Exciting possibilities for both Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands exist in our emerging new century. New forms of governance are taking hold as witnessed in the newly emerging European Union or Organization of

African States. Overall, a closer association with the Caribbean, specifically represented by the province of the Turks and Caicos Islands, could only enhance trade, cultural, humanitarian and security interests for all concerned. Canada's founding fathers did not falter in their vision of a country of many diverse regions united together for peace and prosperity to the benefit of all. What is now required is the political will and vision expressed both by the Canadian people, as well as those from the Caribbean region, to make it happen.

**Update:** I continue to give my full support to help drive this wonderful idea to a successful conclusion. Should we finally end our long-standing dalliance, and ask the question: Should the Turks and Caicos Islands officially become our eleventh province-what do you think?

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### Your Opinion Matters...

**Question #1** Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and farm products in the Caribbean and South America?

Yes

No

**Question #2** Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should explore improved political, economic, and humanitarian regional cooperation?

Yes

No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

After a somewhat contentious presidential election in February that saw the victory of René Préval, Haitians went to the polls again on April 21 to elect a parliament. **Edmonton East Member of Parliament Peter Goldring** represented the government of Canada with a special Foreign Affairs Canada election monitoring mission that was sent to Haiti to assist in Haiti's continued democratic growth. Despite less than perfect voter turn out, the elections were free of obvious violence and political acrimony. They looked every bit as democratic as a parliamentary election in Canada, where some voters also forget the intrinsic value of casting a ballot. Mr. Goldring shares his thoughts and observations here

Arriving in Haiti on April 21 to help monitor the parliamentary elections, I was well aware the previous presidential election of Feb. 12 had not gone smoothly; there had been much debate about the election returns. After initially being ahead with 61 per cent of the vote, René Préval's lead shrunk to 49 per cent and once again Haiti was subject to loud demonstrations, burning tires on the streets and accusations of electoral fraud. The confusion that accompanied the elections, and the perception of some impropriety, plagued the results and suggested that Haiti had not yet transitioned to full democracy.



MP Peter Goldring attended Election Central Monitoring location with Jean-Pierre Kingsley of Elections Canada who has directed all operations.

While that election has been criticized by some, I was still impressed by the response of the Caribbean community to ensure that things were finalized properly and that an end result was attained. Almost immediately, nearby nations like Brazil offered their help in determining whether ballots had been lost, stolen or destroyed. Ultimately, along with Brazilian diplomats, the Organization of American States, the United Nations, and the ambassadors from Canada, Chile and the United States decided to recalculate and divide 85,000 blank ballots that had been recorded in the initial vote count and credit all contenders in proportion to the actual votes they received individually. Accord-



ingly, Préval was elected president of Haiti with 51 per cent of the vote. That result has not been questioned by the world community and has certainly been accepted by the Haitian people themselves, who, as I witnessed during my time there, are very enthused about President-elect Préval's opportunities.

Analyzing the political environment in Haiti, I believe that Haiti's positive future will be determined by several factors: A nation with a stable and effective democ-



MP Peter Goldring on right at early morning opening of poll station with U.S. Ambassador Janet Sanderson on left and Dominican Republic Ambassador José Ramia in the centre.

cratic government and a nation confident in its security and judiciary will surely lead to economic growth and prosperity. Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, must be allowed time to develop and mature as a democracy. Due to chronic authoritarian governments, it has had precious little of that time to do so in the 202 years since it achieved independence from the French after a revolt in 1804. Perhaps that is why the world community should give this island nation sufficient time to adjust to democratic conditions and fairness that many nations in the world have taken for granted.

Haiti is a beautiful country with so much potential but with little historically of the na-

tional stability necessary to achieve it. Its people welcome jobs at wages that would have seemed exploitive in Depression-era Canada because there are no other alternatives. Haiti now attracts low cost labor industry. As an example, a plant closed in nearby Honduras moved its production to Haiti because labor is less costly. Security and stable government will be keys to bringing prosperity to Haiti.

As a member of a Foreign Affairs Canada delegation that included New Democratic Party Foreign Affairs Critic Alexa McDonough and Bloc MP Thierry St. Cyr, I was honoured to represent the new Conservative government on this election monitoring mission but perhaps even more honoured to play a small role in the growth of democracy that this government stands behind. My first observations of the country confirmed what I had suspected: the paramount importance of security and the need for Haitians to develop a quality of life and economic opportunity that will foster greater political stability.

I believe that security is still a major problem in Haiti, with gang violence so evident. While in Haiti, we traveled everywhere in armoured vehicles with armed officers and



we were told to we couldn't travel to the "red zone," the Cité Soleil section of capital Port-au-Prince, because it was too dangerous. In the past, gangs have been known to kidnap as many as 30 people in one day for ransoms.

My perception was that most Haitians are happy with Préval's election – they see him as a reformer, a democrat and sympathetic for the plight of the average entry factory worker, lucky enough to have a job, who receives about \$2 (CAN) a day and often works a 70 hour



Polling station in Port au Prince showing a good turnout but with UN security vehicle in foreground giving security throughout Haiti

week in order to make a little extra overtime salary. An experienced worker on quota work can make \$4 a day.

With the voter turn out for the parliamentary election was only slightly over 30 per cent, I felt a sense of optimism beginning to pervade this country. While Haitians were not voting in great numbers for the Members of Parliament, it was not because they felt that their vote did not count or that democracy did not matter. They had just elected a new president and this parliamentary election was just not perceived to be as important, which underscores the belief held that most Haitians are not clearly understanding the roles and

benefits to society of Parliament.

Of note was that this election was conducted without acrimony. All told, it was a very successful parliamentary election that was accepted wholesale by Haitians and is

an important step in the democratic process. Haitians are also anxiously awaiting a visit by Canadian Governor General Michaëlle Jean next month, when she attends the inauguration of newly elected Haitian President René Préval. It will be a unique homecoming for Canada's head of state, as

she returns to the country of her birth.

It is difficult to know when a country like Haiti has turned the corner from chronic instability to the democratic and economic norm. Certainly, you will eventually see it in facts in figures, in successful long-term government, in solid economic indicators like a rising standard of living and reduced poverty. Perhaps you see it first in the faces of the people – when they can begin to smile and start to think optimistically about the future – for themselves, their families and their country.

For all armchair critics who say that turn out could have been higher, I say that

most Haitians, and others like myself, view the issues as being the glass is half-full, not half-empty. While there is much left to do in a possibly long road to Haiti's self-sustainability, this election is a good step forward.



MP Peter Goldring on the right with (from left to right) Bloc Québécois M.P. Thierry St-Cyr, Haiti's interim Prime Minister Gerald Latortue and New Democrat M.P. Alexa McDonough.

**Update:** Haiti and the international community have built the foundation of democracy. We must wait for the rest of the house to be built. Freedom often takes time to take root, but when it does, it will blossom with the promise of freedom and stability for tomorrow. Haiti is busy today building that future.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

Question #1 Should Canada's monetary aid be more focused on security and the rebuilding of education infrastructure in countries like Haiti?

Yes       No

Question #2 Should Canada work more closely with CARICOM in establishing a functional democratic society in Haiti?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Monday, August 28, 2006 was such a pivotal day in Guyana – national election day, 2006 – that a national holiday was declared, to encourage people to vote.

I was honoured to be an observer of the election with the election monitoring team of the Organization of American States, composed of 123 observers who were deployed in ten regions of Guyana. Other organizations were also represented, resulting in the largest number of independent election observers involved in a Guyanese national election. Shortly after my arrival, I met with Charles Court, High Commissioner designate of Canada to Guyana and Mark Mostovac of the Canadian International Development Agency and with former High Commissioners John Graham and Bill Warden, providing an opportunity to discuss regional economic, trade and political issues.

Many viewed the election with a degree of apprehension. The ruling party,

the People's Progressive Party/Civic, had been in power for 14 years. Previous elections in 1992, 1997 and 2001 had ended in riots, looting and allegations of electoral fraud. Anticipating a repeat of post-election social disorder, businesses in major cities were closed and secured, ostensibly for the national voting holiday. At the same time, Suriname deployed 200 troops on the border between Suriname and Guyana, anticipating a flood of post-election refugees from rioting.

Guyanese security forces were also deployed around major city centres for the first time during an election and remained on the streets after election day, pending release of the election results.

Originally colonized by the Dutch in the 1700s, Guyana became a British colony as of 1815, with Guyanese of British background being a distinct, though eco-

nomically powerful minority. Today, a nation of approximately 730,000 people occupying an area the size of Idaho, Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America. Guyana achieved independence in 1966, but is regarded as not having had a free and fair election until 1992.



Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament, at the Canadian High Commission in Georgetown, Guyana with High Commissioner Charles Court and Canadian observers.



Guyana today is known as the “land of six peoples”, with the population predominantly composed of those of Indo-Guyanese background (approximately 51%) and those of Afro-Guyanese background (approximately 42%). 4% of the population is composed of indigenous Amerindians. The remaining percentage of the population is composed of persons of Chinese-Guyanese, English and Portuguese descent. Much of the early history of the country is referenced to persons who arrived in Guyana as indentured labourers, such as those of Portuguese and East Indian background, following the abolition of slavery in 1834. At that time, many former slaves became freehold landowners and gradually dominated urban Guyana. To this day, Indo-Guyanese is the predominate culture of rural areas of the country, while the cities are largely populated by Afro-Guyanese.



Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament, with Charles Court, High Commissioner of Canada to Guyana, CIDA's Mark Mostovac and former High Commissioners Bill Warden and John Graham.

The ethnic, urban-rural dichotomy in Guyana has also resulted in race-based voting, which some trace back nearly fifty years, to the 1957 general election. The governing party, The People's Progressive Party/Civic, is predominantly Indo-Guyanese. The major opposition party, the People's National Congress Reform – One Guyana, is Afro-Guyanese. A third party,

the Alliance for Change, was formed prior to the current election, with the expressed objective of introducing race-neutral voting, through having a diverse party composition and candidate profile. Three other smaller parties were also on the ballot. All parties pledged to govern with a degree of inclusiveness, irrespective of which party actually won the election.

Election issues surrounded the static state of the Guyanese economy which, prior to independence from England in 1966, was the most prosperous in the region. This is in contrast to Guyana's economic difficulties of today, which are second only to Haiti's poverty level in the Western Hemisphere, tainted also with the country's dubious reputation as an international transshipment point for drugs, particularly Colombian cocaine bound for the United States. Various members of the Opposition alleged that the current government was too soft on drug traffickers. The U.S. estimates that annual drug trafficking revenue of approximately \$150 million amounts to at least 20% of Guyana's gross domestic product. Guyana is particularly challenged by unemployment and deficiencies in infrastructure.

Guyana's main industries of sugar, bauxite and rice are struggling amidst falling world prices. This is a particularly regrettable



outcome for the rice industry, given that Guyana is so fertile that two rice crops per year are produced. Guyana is also rich in gold and timber.

Canadian aid was reportedly directed in a failed effort to encourage small sugar cane farmers' cooperatives to increase their production, while nationally organized large scale producers were excluded from aid participation. Rather than excluding large producers, it is felt that they should be encouraged. Most large scale world competitive production comes from economies of scale, coupled with mechanized harvesting equipment, rather than from small communal efforts. Significant increases in economic production levels of many Guyanese products are necessary for Guyana to be a world-class competitor. Value-added secondary processing and packaging facilities will also add much needed diversified employment opportunities.

Another reported dubious commercial activity is a lumbering project recently started up in a remote region of Guyana. The port facilities and infrastructure are reportedly paid for and manned by Chinese labour, while products go directly to China. The main cause of poverty is a lack of family sustainable jobs. Much more must be done to

encourage new business development that would actually accommodate this goal.

Before election day, I was shown the large, earthen dykeworks and drainage system of the "conservacy control," encompassing an area of some 300 square kilometres. Georgetown, the capital of Guyana, and the surrounding conservacy area are below sea level. The conservacy area provides 25% of the fresh water for Georgetown, plus the irrigation for the rice fields. The area was badly flooded in early 2005, when the 200 year old drain-



*Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament, with election monitoring partner at polling station.*

age system collapsed, following torrential rains; many of the earthen retaining walls were lost. It was the worst natural disaster in Guyana's history, affecting nearly half of Guyana's population. At that time, as Opposition Foreign Affairs Critic for the Caribbean, these concerns were raised in the House of Commons. Regrettably, the Liberal government had delayed responding until faced with mounting evidence that up to 500 Guyanese per day were becoming seriously ill from the effects of the floodwaters. While there has been an effort to rebuild and the intrinsic design has been re-established, there are fears that another cycle of high water will quickly overcome the existing dyking. This threat will exist until the system is properly shored up with substantive dyking material.

Despite initial fears, the election was conducted in an orderly, calm manner, with polls open from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.. No major incidents were reported. Nearly 500,000 people were eligible to vote for the President and 65 seats in the Guyanese Parliament. Voter turnout of approximately 325,000, or nearly 70%, was nonetheless 20% lower than the previous election and viewed as being the lowest percentage voter turnout since Guyanese independence in 1966. Speaking to many Guyanese, the feeling was that there was guarded optimism about expected outcomes. It was generally accepted that this

time the election results were to be accepted in order, to bring a return to stability and confidence, which will allow the country to start to grow its economy and return to more prosperity.

Following the election, the Organization of American State expressed its favourable opinion of the election procedures, stating that it appeared that “the General and Regional Elections took place in a calm, professional and orderly manner.”

Update:  
 Canada’s future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political and economic relationships. By doing so, we are better positioned for the management and delivery of Canada’s humanitarian assistance that is needed by so many in the Caribbean right now.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Your Opinion Matters...</b></p> <p><b>Question #1</b> Do you believe that Canadian assistance to other nations should also focus on trade opportunities?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>Question #2</b> Do you think that Canada should play a role in promoting democratic government when and where it can?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>Question #3</b> What would you rate as Canada’s primary foreign policy objective?</p> <p>Comments: _____                  _____                  _____</p>	<p>Name: _____                  Address: _____                  City: _____                  Postal Code: _____                  Telephone: _____</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p><b>Peter Goldring</b>  <b>Member of Parliament</b>  <b>Edmonton East</b>  <b>House of Commons</b>  <b>Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6</b></p> </div>
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# The Turks & Caicos Islands

## A Canada - Caribbean

### Trade Partner?

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Many appreciate the benefits of enhanced political and economic relationships between Canada and countries of the Caribbean Rim. There is also a growing appreciation that such renewed engagement is a matter of economic imperative, based on a need to have a more diversified export market for Canada.

A common concern among the Caribbean countries I have visited was the sense that Canada was pulling back from the Caribbean, politically and economically. The Eastern Caribbean region of countries alone represents a marketplace of over one million people, while its southern Caribbean Rim influence is 20 million or more. The population influences of the entire Caribbean Rim of nations is over 120 million.

The need for more active and conscientious Canadian engagement in the region is paramount. Canadian goals and policy in the region are in need of refinement. Goals should be clearly established in relation to three principal areas:

political engagement, economic development, and humanitarian/security assistance. There is much interest in the region for enhanced Canadian involvement to develop a much more regular, direct, deep water trade route to Canada, for Canadian partnership in value added diversified farm production, food processing, manufacturing and facility construction, as well as for involvement in business and personal telecommunication delivery systems, geothermal energy sources and free trade transshipping ports.

### HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

The Turks and Caicos Islands are two island groups located in the Caribbean just north of

Haiti. These islands were originally inhabited by the Lucayans from Hispaniola and Cuba and were later inhabited by the Bermudians. European influence with these islands began in 1678 when the British arrived to establish a salt-panning industry. During this



Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, Peter Goldring, is promoting enhanced political, economic and humanitarian ties with the Caribbean Rim group of nations.



time, many African slaves were transported to the islands for labour. In 1833, slavery was abolished in Britain and the emancipation of slaves on the Turks and Caicos soon followed. From 1848 to 1873, the Turks and Caicos were a non-aligned British colony. Then, for nearly a century, from 1874 to 1962, the Turks and Caicos were governed by Jamaica. After Jamaica received its independence in 1962, the Turks and Caicos once again became a non-aligned British colony.

**GOVERNMENT**

Governed by The Bahamas from 1965 to 1973, the Turks and Caicos Islands were granted their own government in 1993. The current Governor, Richard Tauwhare, is advised by a legislative council composed of 13 elected members, 6 appointed members and an elected speaker. The current head of the elected government is Chief Minister Michael Misick.

**GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE**

The capital of the Turks and Caicos Is-

lands is Cockburn Town, located about 90 miles north of the Dominican Republic and some 2,000 air miles south of Ottawa. This is approximately the same 2000-mile distance between Ottawa and Edmonton. It is interesting to note that there are a number of cities in Canada (such as Victoria, Yellowknife and Whitehorse) that are located much further away from Ottawa than the Turks and Caicos Islands.



**January 2004-The Turks and Caicos Islands Chief Minister, the Honourable Michael Misick, meets with Member of Parliament Peter Goldring, on Grand Turks.**

The six principal islands and several cays that comprise the

Turks and Caicos Islands are approximately 500 square kilometres in area and contain nearly 400 kilometres of coastline. The islands are geographically an extension of the Bahamas chain and are of similar composition. Elevations reach a height of no more than 50 metres and the islands are surrounded by coral reefs.

These islands possess a warm, pleasant and rather dry climate with seasonal temperatures ranging from 24 to 32 degrees Celsius. The annual average rainfall is 56 centimetres.

**POPULATION AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

The islands have a population of



approximately 25,000. The majority of the islands' citizens work in the labour force and unemployment is estimated to be at 15%. The official language of this island nation is English and the official currency is the U.S. dollar.

The Turks and Caicos Islands have a number of social problems that are also common to Canada. Illegal immigration and drug trafficking are primary concerns and both Canada and the Caribbean would do well to adopt common anti-drug/immigration strategies. This would also be of benefit to the greatest destination for these illicit enterprises, the United States.

**ECONOMY**

The primary industries for the Turks and Caicos are tourism, fishing and offshore banking. For most essential foods and products, these islands continue to rely on imports from the United States. Not surprisingly, there has been a lot of interest expressed in economic diversification to facilitate a broader array of business and employment opportunities for the islanders.



**Ralph Higgs, Director of Tourism Marketing of the Turks and Caicos Islands meeting with Canadian Member of Parliament Peter Goldring in January 2007.**

During the course of my involvement with these islands, I have been approached by several businesses that have expressed an interest in aquaculture farming in the island waters.

**CONNECTING THE ISLANDS**

The primary islands of the Turks and Caicos (Providential, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, East Caicos and South Caicos) are separated by short distances of

shallow water, which allows them to be readily connectible by causeways. Such a project would greatly aid the development of sparsely settled North, Middle and South Islands and would foster economic growth. Although the cost of such an initiative is marginal by Canadian standards, it is presently beyond the island nation's economic capacity. Moreover, there have been concerns expressed on the ecological implications of such a project, especially in some of the more sensitive reef areas.

**DEEP WATER PORT**

During my recent visit in January of last year, I met with Ralph Higgs, the

Director of Tourism Marketing for the Turks and Caicos Tourist Board, where he related to me the intention the government (under Michael Misick) to foster greater economic ties with Canada. Ralph Higgs was one of the point people involved with past initiatives to seek closer association with Canada.

Issues that were discussed included the importance to examine the possible use of South Caicos Island as an ideal deep water port facility for Canadian distribution and transshipping, ideally becoming a Foreign Trade zone (FTZ) for Canada's development and long term use. A Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) is a designated area which for customs purposes

is considered to be outside the country of location. Such considerations, of course, are the purview of formal government discussions, but an indication of Islanders' willingness to discuss options for closer economic association.

**CONCLUSION**

Today, there is a tremendous opportunity for Canada to enhance its economic and political ties with the Turks and Caicos Islands and thereby improve its hemispheric relations with the Americas. The Caribbean has enormous economic and strategic potential and should be a priority for Canadian policy makers and businesses alike.

Update: Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Question #1** Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade and economic development in the Caribbean and South America?

Yes       No

**Question #2** Do you think that The Turks and Caicos Islands would make a good platform for Canada to develop its trade and economic development in the region.

Yes       No

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

**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
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Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

ISSUE #55

# Canada's Trade With The Caribbean Rim Countries

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Many appreciate the benefits of enhanced political and economic relationships between Canada and countries of the Caribbean Rim. There is also a growing appreciation that such renewed engagement is a matter of economic imperative, based on a need to have a more diversified export market for Canada.

A common concern among the Caribbean countries I visited was the sense that Canada was pulling back from the Caribbean, politically and economically. The Eastern Caribbean region of countries alone represents a marketplace of over one million people, while its southern Caribbean Rim influence is 20 million or more. The population influences of the

entire Caribbean Rim of nations is over 120 million. The need for more active and conscientious Canadian engagement in the region is paramount. Canadian goals and policy in the region are in need of refinement. Goals should be clearly established in relation to three principal areas: political engagement, economic development, and humanitarian/security assistance. There is much interest in the region for enhanced Canadian involvement to develop a more regular, direct, deep water trade route to Canada, for Canadian partnership in value added diversified farm production, food processing, manufacturing and facility construction, as well as for involvement in business and personal telecommunication delivery systems,



Member of Parliament Peter Goldring meeting with a Member of Parliament and Senator from the island nation of Dominica.

geothermal energy sources and free trade transshipping ports.



## CANADA'S ATLANTIC TRADE WITH THE CARIBBEAN RIM OF COUNTRIES

### A PLATFORM APPROACH

**November 2007**

Globalization and a shifting geopolitical landscape are changing the dynamics of international relations and providing new opportunities for Canada. An important region with great economic and strategic potential that should be of growing interest to Canada is the Caribbean. Canada should work with a willing partner country in the region to establish a Canadian "platform", possibly a deep water port location combined with a regional Foreign Trade Zone to create a regional distribution centre for greater economic engagement to enhance trade and investment. A Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) is a designated area, which, for customs purposes, is considered outside the country of origin. Such an initiative will not only generate growth in Atlantic Canada, but will en-



Meeting in St. Lucia with Mr. Cosmos Richardson, Permanent Secretary of External Affairs, and other officials discussing economic development interests.

hance Canada's strategic and economic relations with this important part of the world.

The geographic proximity of Canada and the Caribbean, within an increasingly interconnected global marketplace, translates into a number of shared interests. In this respect, Canada has a tremendous opportunity to foster closer working relationships with the Caribbean island nations. Moreover, Canada's reputation as a peace-keeping nation resonates well in the Caribbean

and would benefit future initiatives and constructive relations. Last year, Canada replaced Spain to become the third largest foreign investor in the Americas and, as the Canadian economy continues to thrive, the time is appropriate for further investment in the region.

The benefits of increased economic and political relations in the Caribbean are many, and the disadvantages few. Perhaps the most striking benefit to Canada is the fact that, given the geographical proximity of the Caribbean and Canada's rising economic potential, this is an area where Canada can, and should have real and demonstrative in-



fluence. Other benefits to an improved Atlantic Canada–Caribbean trading and economic development association include:

Improved access to Caribbean markets and global supply chains; Improved strategic position with other trade and economic development competitors; Closer association with the region for the promotion of democracy, good governance and the dispersal of humanitarian aid; Enhanced hemispheric security and efforts against organized crime.



Peter Goldring, MP with the Honourable Edison C. James, MP and Leader of the U.W.P. Official Opposition Party of Dominica, discussing social-economic concerns.

Among the island nations that have expressed an interest in establishing closer economic and political ties with Canada is the island nation of the Turks and Caicos. Several times over the past 25 years, the Turks and Caicos Islands have approached Canada in the hope of joining confederation. Their interests demonstrate a strong wish for a closer economic association with Canada, though not necessarily now for Confederation. The Turks and Caicos Islands have a population of approximately 25,000 and are among the fastest growing economies in the Caribbean. Increasing political and economic ties with

this enterprising island chain would be a tremendous opportunity for the inhabitants of these islands to diversify their economy and for Canada to partner in regional economic growth and development.

Today, the majority of Turks and Caicos Islanders are supportive of Canada and would be interested in cooperating with Canada in the region. Benefits for the Turks and Caicos and the Caribbean include:

- Economic partnerships for prosperity and diversification;
- Expansion of technological manufacturing and development;
- Potential favorable trade associations;
- Stronger relations with Canada and the international community;
- Possible development assistance for major infrastructure projects.

Today, there is a tremendous opportunity for Canada to re-establish its traditional, respected trading partner status with the Caribbean. This region has enormous economic and strategic potential and should be a priority for Canadian policy makers and businesses alike. The Caribbean is a very receptive and Canada friendly region that will return much in terms of long

term economic stability. Facilitating trade and investment would be an important first step in addressing important economic and humanitarian issues. By reaching out and expanding economic and political relations with the Caribbean, Canada will be contributing to global peace and security, while securing its own interests in the years ahead.



**Update:** Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade and economic development in the Caribbean and South America?

Yes       No

**Question #2** Do you think that The Turks and Caicos Islands would make a good platform for Canada to develop its trade and economic development in the region.

Yes       No

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ISSUE #56



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

*Peter Goldring, member of Parliament for Edmonton East traveled to Cuba in January to gain an improved perspective on Cuba's geopolitical evolution and its future in the Caribbean.*

The recent announcement by Cuban President Fidel Castro that he will formally relinquish his presidential power signals the end of an era for the Caribbean nation he has ruled since 1959. For the Cuban people there is a feeling of uncertainty with a change from the only leader many of the populace has ever known.

President Castro's decision to retire as president and commander-in-chief does seem to open the way for change and a continuing improvement in relations between Cuba and the rest of the Western hemisphere.

That means the Conservative government's renewed focus on an Americas strategy comes at an opportune time for Canada-

Cuba relations. As globalization permeates throughout the globe, there is a tremendous opportunity for Canada to foster greater trading relations with other countries in the Americas and increase opportunities for citizens in both regions of the world. As Canada develops trading partnerships with countries such as Columbia and Peru, it might also consider establishing similar arrangements with Cuba. For Canada, increased ties with Cuba could not only advance Canadian economic, cultural, political, and security interests, but could serve as a vehicle through which Canada could extend its relations to other countries in the Americas. For Cuba, an enhanced partnership with Canada would bring much needed trade and investment to an economy in search of diversification, and could create greater stability and prosperity for the citizens of the country.



Canada's trade with Cuba goes back 200 years when Atlantic Canada traded cod and beer for rum and sugar.

Canada-Cuba trade relations go back as far as the 18<sup>th</sup> century when vessels from Canada's Atlantic traded cod and beer for rum and sugar. Official diplomatic relations were



established in 1945, and, following the Cuban Revolution in 1959, Canada and Mexico were the only two countries in the hemisphere to maintain diplomatic relations. The end of the Cold War and the spread of globalization have presented new opportunities for enhanced Canada-Cuba relations, as Cuba looks to increase trading relations with other countries and improve its economic performance.

Canada's history of diplomatic and cultural relations with Cuba would be advantageous in any future strategic or economic partnership. Tourism continues to be a prominent factor in facilitating Canada-Cuba

relations, with hundreds of thousands of Canadians vacationing in Cuba each year. Knowledge of Canadian culture and history is promoted through Canadian studies programs at five Cuban universities and exchanges among Canadian and Cuban academics are common. Among the more popular Canadian inspired events in Cuba is the annual Terry Fox Run. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Terry Fox Run in 2007 attracted more than two million participants across the island, making it the largest in the world outside of Canada. These types of linkages help foster goodwill

among the citizens of both countries and facilitate good trading relations.

Cuba is looking to improve its economic performance after enduring a number of hardships between 1990 and 1994. The collapse

of the Soviet Union, a lack of export diversification, over-reliance on a central planning system, trade embargoes, limited access to international credit and the loss of some export markets in Eastern Europe helped contribute to a decline in the Cuban economy. To improve its economic performance, Cuba must attract more foreign direct investment, increase employment and diversify its economy. This will require a number of institutional and

policy changes as well as a commitment to combat corruption. Canada has tried to assist Cuba with its developmental challenges by providing bi-lateral development assistance. This program is designed to provide assistance in two priority areas: (1) modernization of the state which covers economic, industrial and environmental sub-sectors; and (2) local development focused on strengthening the capacity of local governments and community groups in the Eastern provinces to address local requirements. Since 1996, the size of the bi-lateral program has varied be-



The three blue stripes on the Cuban flag symbolize the three old divisions of the island. The two white stripes represent the strength of the independent ideal. The red triangle symbolizes equality, fraternity, freedom and the blood shed in the island's struggle for independence. The white star represents the absolute freedom among the Cuban people.



tween \$3.5 and \$5.0 million in program spending annually.

Canada is in a good position to establish greater trading relations with Cuba. As a country within the Americas, Canada is strategically positioned to capitalize on its proximity to Cuba and other countries in the region. To this end, there has been discussion over the potential development of a Canadian Free Trade deep water port at the doorway to the Caribbean which could facilitate trade between Canada, the Caribbean Rim of countries, including Cuba. The development of such a port in the region would be of great benefit for both countries. A regional deep water port would assist Cuba with their international trade and competitiveness in the modern, global economy. This would increase trading activity along Cuba's shores and would encourage foreign direct investment and economic diversification, thereby creating more jobs and economic opportunity for the Cuban people. A Canadian deep water port in the region would also increase ship-

ping activity for Canada's Atlantic region and would provide Canadian industries with an important trading hub from which to trade with other countries in the region.



Fidel Castro served as Prime Minister of Cuba from 1959 until the office was abolished in 1976, then as President until February 2008. most Cubans have

Enhanced Canada-Cuba trading relations would generate a number of economic benefits. Canada's diverse and well established industries could assist Cuba with its much needed economic diversification. This would help to modernize Cuban infrastructure and production capacity and would increase Cuban access to market technologies, thus providing more opportunity for small, medium and large scale enterprise. Increased trade with Canada necessitate an increased conformity to

international standards of law as demanded by industries in return for investment. For Canada, a trading compact with Cuba could improve economic competitiveness by increasing Canadian access to a new and emerging market, one that is strategically located between the United States and Latin America. Cuba's positioning could help foster investment opportunities not only in Cuba, but also in the rest of Americas.

Greater Canada-Cuba relations could bolster

hemispheric stability and security within the Americas at a time when this is becoming increasingly important. There are a number of trans-national criminal organizations that operate with relative impunity in many countries of the Americas. These organizations often penetrate into government and are often engaged in activities such as narcotics trafficking, money laundering, arms dealing, people smuggling and other illicit activities. It has become apparent that hemispheric trade prospers under good security arrangements. A Canada-Cuba trading compact would facilitate cooperation among law enforcement agencies in both countries and would bolster security in the Americas.

Developing greater relations with Cuba could be politically advantageous for Canada. Cuba

is currently undergoing a period of transition. This period of transition should be viewed as an opportunity for Canadian policy makers. Canada has an opportunity to build upon its goodwill and establish stronger relations with this Caribbean island. This could advance democracy and human rights improvement efforts throughout the region and could enhance Canada's diplomatic relations with other countries in the Americas.

Canada's approach to Cuba should be guided by Canadian values, respect for democracy and human rights, economic prosperity and the security of its citizens. As the Harper government embarks upon a strategy in the Americas, future relations with Cuba should be evaluated while keeping these principles in mind.

**Update:** Fidel Castro's brother, 76-year-old Raul Castro has been confirmed as the new President of Cuba and Commander in Chief of the armed forces. He was elected by the National Assembly on February 24, 2008. He had been serving as provisional president since July 2006.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

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Yes       No

Question #2: Can Canada play an important role in advancing democratic ideals throughout the Caribbean Rim?

Yes       No

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**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
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Closer ties between Canada and the Caribbean, especially The Turks and Caicos Islands is something that Member of Parliament Peter Goldring has been promoting for a number of years.

Many have written to me about The Turks and Caicos Islands. I have long had considerable interest in the Caribbean, The Turks and Caicos Islands and their relationship to Canada, even before being appointed by Stephen Harper as the Opposition Foreign Affairs Critic (Caribbean Region) during the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Session in 2004. In government I have had an advocacy role with respect to the Caribbean region for several years and am serving as both Vice-Chair of the Canada-Caribbean Parliamentary Committee, director of the Canada-Cuba Committee and Vice-Chair of the Mexico and Argentina Committees, as well as a member of the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee in the House of Commons. I also have monitored elections

in the region, specifically Haiti and Guyana.

In the summer of 2005, using my own funds, I travelled to Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica to see first-hand the effects of Hurricane Ivan and reported to Parliament. I also took the time to meet with political and business people about the evolving geopolitical and economic climate of the region. I first travelled to The Turks and Caicos Islands in 2003, again using my own funds, to gauge public opinion of the islands' prospects, touring both Provo Island and Grand Turks Island. I, of course, have visited since.



**Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East is promoting close social & economic ties with the Caribbean group of nations.**

Discussion of a partnership between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands dates back to 1917, and Prime Minister Robert Borden. Talk of some form of union or formalized association with the islands was noted and then shelved.

Concurrently a similar initiative was made by Britain that Canada help with the governance of all British colonies in the Caribbean (then called the British West Indies). Successful pursuit of these talks would have resulted in Canada having more formal partnerships and



linkages, not only with The Turks and Caicos Islands, but with approximately 12 English-speaking Caribbean countries today.

In more recent years, movement for a Canada-Turks and Caicos partnership or union was encouraged in 1974 by then New Democratic Party Member of Parliament, Max Saltsman, a rather ironic name given the island's historical industry. The Turks and Caicos Islands was a significant source of supply of very necessary salt for Canada's Atlantic fishing industry, obtained by water evaporation in substantial salt works. The Turks and Caicos Islands coinage depicts Dutch style



**Brad Sigoun, MP Peter Goldring Edmonton East, MP Massimo Pacetti, Saint Leonard-Saint-Michael with Rosemarie Wilson, of The Turks & Caicos Islands Tourist Board.**

windmills used to pump seawater for its historically most important industry, salt panning. The islands of course had moved on from the salt panning industry and were looking for the economic development and tourism that association with Canada might have brought. The Trudeau Government of the day, however, rejected Mr. Saltsman's proposal.

In April 1986, during the time of the Mulroney Government, The Turks and Caicos Islands once again approached the Canadian government. A five member Progressive Conservative Committee formed by Winnipeg MP Dan McKenzie and chaired by Ottawa West MP, David Daubney, established plans to

hold hearings on the issue before reporting to the party caucus. Mr. Ralph Higgs and Mr. Delton Jones were the primary persons traveling to Ottawa from The Turks and Caicos Islands to state their case and addressed the Progressive Conservative sub-committee on external affairs. The hearings were to determine whether to hold further exploratory talks

with the islanders and representatives of the semi-autonomous British Colony. In the end, once again, Canada opted not to pursue union with The Turks and Caicos Islands. The reason not to consider association most certainly was not the distance from Ottawa (the riding of Edmonton East is further from Ottawa than are The Turks and Caicos Islands).

In late 2003 I joined with businessmen Brad Sigouin and Richard Pearson of "A Place In The Sun" in once again promoting the association concept.

I most certainly do not advocate the "annexation" of The Turks and Caicos Islands, as this term is one that is associated with colonialism, implying the "taking control of land or territory by sometimes forceful means, without the peoples' consent or agreement." Nor do I advocate a union with the islands unless there is a clear and determined great majority of overwhelming will by both countries' citizens for such an associa-



tion. This has not yet been determined. I do advocate an economic partnership, of one form or another, being negotiated between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands. This could mean partnering with the islands by establishing a free trade association with them, or perhaps establishing some sort of customs union.

I believe a Canada-Turks and Caicos Islands economic partnership or union represents an historic opportunity for Canada to have a new and positive influence in the greater Caribbean region. Partnership



**Ralph Higgs, Director of The Turks & Caicos Islands Tourist Board, met with Peter Goldring in January 2007 to discuss opportunities for joint ventures.**

with The Turks and Caicos Islands would better formalize the “special relationship” Canada already enjoys in the region and it would provide many mutually beneficial opportunities for both sides that would go far beyond Canadians merely having access to a tropical vacation destination. The Turks and Caicos Islands, specifically South Caicos Island, has the possible potential to be the principal deep-water trans-shipment centre for Canadian trade coming both to and from the entire Caribbean Rim region and beyond.

With the evolving geopolitical climate of the Caribbean there are many strategic issues to consider along with the mutually beneficial economic opportunities. With a Canadian

platform of trade transshipment from a deep-water port on Turks and Caicos’ South Caicos Island, Canada from its Atlantic ports would benefit greatly by a partnership and engagement.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are strategically located at the doorway to the Caribbean and beyond. As a consistently stable British territorial country it has the inherent stability required of a platform partnership location. It is about 200 kilometres off shore from Haiti and a somewhat similar distance from Cuba.

Canada has in the past staged its troop deployment to Haiti from The Turks and Caicos Islands. One could only imagine the great opportunities to directly engage the emerging Cuban economic interests from such a regional base of operations. In addition to much greater trade and economic development in the region, the platform would also serve as a regional base for democratic development efforts as well as disaster assistance. The hurricane that devastated Grenada, Haiti and other islands underscores the need for regionally locating disaster assistance. From a very understandable, practical reason, if Canada is much more engaged economically and politically in the region it has greater capacity for emergency relief as well.

Exciting possibilities for both Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands exist with a greatly increased cooperative association. Overall, a closer association with the Caribbean, specifically with The Turks and Caicos Islands, could only enhance trade, cultural, humanitarian and security interests for all concerned. Canada's founding fathers did not falter in their vision of a country of many diverse regions united together for peace and prosperity to the benefit of all. What is now required is the political will and vision expressed both by the Canadian people, as well as those from the Caribbean region, to make increasing cooperation happen.

Mr. Ralph Higgs of The Turks and Caicos Islands still envisions a close formal association. He now is Director of The Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board, and has kept the vision of closer association with Canada alive and well for 25 years. Canada should listen to the reasons of today for the mutual benefits of such an association.

**Update:** Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and farm products in the Caribbean and South America?

Yes       No

**Question #2** Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should explore improved political, economic, and humanitarian regional cooperation?

Yes       No

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**Peter Goldring**  
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

In April 2009 Edmonton East Member of Parliament Peter Goldring traveled to Washington, D.C., with the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. While there he had several informal discussions with American Congressmen and Senators about the relationship between Cuba and the United States and Canada's role in helping their relationship.

history of involvement of European and western law and culture, even to the substantial involvement in supporting the evolution of international rights charters such as the United Nations Rights of the Child. Cuba, while probably best known in Canada as being a vacation destination for Canadians also has considerable resource development by Canadian companies.

Canada has taken the lead in reasoned relations with Cuba over the years. Recently the United States, under the new Obama administration, has signalled a positive policy shift in its attitude towards the Caribbean nation – perhaps influenced in part by the long existing example shown by Canada.

The importance to the long term geopolitical stability in the region is significant. Cuba, with a population of some 10 million well educated and industrious persons is well posed and eminently capable to reposition itself within the marketplace of democratic countries. Cuba has after all had a long



Member of Parliament Peter Goldring (second from left, Kevin Sorenson, Alberta Envoy to Washington Gary Mar and member of Parliament Deepak Obrhai at the Canadian Embassy with the U.S Capitol building in the distance.

Relations between the United States and Cuba have been strained since the Cuban Revolution instigated by the rise to power of Fidel Castro in the late 1950s which overthrew the corrupt Batista regime. Castro's government nationalized Cuba's industry and forbade private ownership in a fashion which caused many businesses and individuals to suffer great losses. The resulting acrimony created evolved to an aggressive raid on Cuba that failed and attempts by

Cuba to assert itself with Cuban-based Soviet missiles, which brought even Canadian warships to be deployed with American warships to blockade further missile shipments.



This led to a lack of formal relations and the U.S embargo, which has been kept alive by the large population of Cuban exiles, who are politically powerful, especially in the key state of Florida.

In more recent years Cuba has been actively engaged in many humanitarian issues throughout the Caribbean, providing much needed and appreciated health care and medical assistance.

Canadian mining companies in spite of the embargo have been active in Cuba for some years. Why more Canadian companies have not also been engaged has to do directly with sensitivity towards the American Helms Burton Act.

For decades Cuba turned away from Western influences and instead became a bastion of Communism in the Caribbean, a Soviet client state that was seen as an affront to American democracy. With the end of the Cold War and the demise of the Soviet Union, Cuba has been slowly opening up once again to more Western influences, providing increased opportunity for some Canadian businesses who have had continued good relations with the island nation when Ameri-

can business were forbidden by law to do so.

As part of its study on Canadian Foreign Policy, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development travelled to Washington D.C. in late April 2009 to hold hearings and discussions on Canada-US relations as well as looking at how the two countries' foreign policies can complement each other.

While the meetings concentrated on that close relationship between Canada and the United States, American politicians also expressed interest in Canadian attitudes towards Cuba, especially in informal meetings between Canadian Parliamentarians and American Congressmen and Senators. Edmonton East Member of Parliament Peter Goldring specifically questioned the Americans on Cuban relations for the Canadian delegation due to his extensive experience in the area as former Opposition Critic for the Caribbean, having visited many Caribbean countries. He has served as an election monitor in Haiti and Guyana and conducted his own personal fact finding tour of island nations following the devastation of Hurricane Ivan.

Mr. Goldring said he was encouraged by the direction of discussion in Washington that the



The three blue stripes on the Cuban flag symbolize the three old divisions of the island. The two white stripes represent the strength of the independent ideal. The red triangle symbolizes equality, fraternity, freedom and the blood shed in the island's struggle for independence. The white star represents the absolute freedom among the Cuban people.

can business were forbidden by law to do so.

Mr. Goldring said he was encouraged by the direction of discussion in Washington that the



status quo no longer serves the best interests of the American people and that with new administrations in both Washington and Havana there is now an opportunity for more and better dialogue than there has been for half a century. As Canada has close ties to both nations, there is a unique opportunity for Canada to provide brokerage in the role of encouraging greatly improved relations between Cuba and the United States.

The willingness for change was also evident in meetings with Indiana Congressman Dan Burton. With more than 25 years in the House of Representatives Mr. Burton is one of the best-known American Congressmen. He and the late North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms co-sponsored "The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996," a bill that became known as the Helms-Burton Act. The act strengthened the US embargo against Cuba and attempted to extend its reach to apply to non-American companies doing business in Cuba. It was criticized by other countries and the Canadian Parliament, which passed a law to counter Helms Burton. However the Helms Burton act does exist as a nagging

deterrent to fully involving Canada-Cuba economic development. Canadian business interests must be encouraged by the American government to look beyond the letter of the Act as long as social and political reforms move forward, until such time as it is fully dissolved.

Given his role as sponsor of the Helms Burton Act, Mr. Burton could be expected to advocate change in the relationship between the US and Cuba only on terms dictated by the American government. However he told Mr. Goldring that, while he still supported the idea behind the Helms-Burton Act, there needs to be an openness to real dialogue between the US and

Cuba.

From conversations with Senators and Congressmen, and particularly Congressman Dan Burton, it would seem that the overarching issue is one of addressing Cuba's perceived human rights record. Cuba has perhaps understandably had to resort to strenuous measures over the years to keep what their government believed to be foreign instigated destabilizing political factions under control, however in order for Cuba to move forward in its relationship with the U.S., and indeed the world market as a



The U.S Capitol Building houses the Senate and House of Representatives. Canada's Foreign Affairs Committee held meetings there in April 2009 to discuss Canada-U.S. relations.

whole, human rights and the treatment of dissidents will need to be improved upon or better examined to satisfaction of internationally understood norms.

Also one of the issues that all also must be cognizant of is how to deal with possible property claims from those who fled into exile to the US, settling in large numbers in Florida (almost a million Floridians have Cuban ancestry, two thirds of the total for the country) and the New York City area. Their concentration in Florida makes them a powerful political lobby group and it has been suggested they might expect the American government to pressure the Cuban government for compensation for property seized after the Cuban revolution. (The situation has parallels with the case the Palestinians

make regarding land seized by Israel in 1948 and 1967.)

However today the issue of human rights is the most fundamental issue and a barrier to possible development, but one that can be dealt with if there is a will to examine openly and suggest resolutions for all sides. Canada, with its strong ties to both countries as well as to other countries in the Americas, is well placed to offer encouragement for progress to be made on human rights and democratic development conciliator and perhaps help Cuba to take its rightful place amongst the progressive prosperous nations of the world.

**Update:** The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of State for the Americas, attended the Organization of American States General Assembly in Honduras this month. He offered Canadian support to an American resolution intended to open dialogue with Cuba about its eventual re-integration into the inter-American system.

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Yes       No

**Question #2:** Can Canada play an important role in advancing democratic ideals throughout the Caribbean Rim?

Yes       No

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Closer ties between Canada and the Caribbean, especially The Turks and Caicos Islands is something that Member of Parliament Peter Goldring has been promoting for a number of years.

In June 2009 Liberal Member of Parliament Massimo Pacetti, after consulting with me, introduced this motion in the House of Commons, which I seconded.

*That, in the opinion of the House, the government should immediately mandate two (2) Members of Parliament, one (1) from the governing party and one (1) from the official opposition party, to begin discussions with representatives of the Turks and Caicos Islands in establishing a framework in order to determine areas of enhanced partnership in trade, social and economic development.*



**Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East is promoting close social & economic ties with the Caribbean group of nations.**

Mr. Pacetti introduced his motion because of renewed interest in both Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands in both Canada and the Islands. At the request of the Prime Minister's Office, I facilitated an informal

meeting between Turks and Caicos Islands Premier Galmo Williams and Prime Minister Stephen Harper when the Prime Minister was attending the Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009.

Many have written to me about The Turks and Caicos Islands. I have long had considerable interest in the Caribbean, The Turks and Caicos Islands and their relationship to Canada, even before being appointed by Stephen Harper as the Opposition Foreign Affairs Critic (Caribbean Region) during the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Session in 2004. In government I have had an advocacy role with respect to the Caribbean region for several years and am serving as both Vice-Chair of the Canada-Caribbean Parliamentary Committee, director of the Canada-Cuba Committee and Vice-Chair of the Mexico and Argentina Committees, as well as a member of the Foreign Affairs and International Development

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I travelled to Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica to see first-hand the effects of Hurricane Ivan and reported to Parliament. I also took the time to meet with political and business people about the evolving geopolitical and economic climate of the region. I first travelled to The Turks and Caicos Islands in 2003, again using my own funds, to gauge public opinion of the islands' prospects, touring both Provo Island and Grand Turks Island. I, of course, have visited since.

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of very necessary salt for Canada's Atlantic fishing industry, obtained by water evaporation in substantial salt works. The Turks and Caicos Islands coinage depicts Dutch style windmills used to pump seawater for its historically most important industry, salt panning. The islands of course had moved on from the salt panning industry and were looking

for the economic development and tourism that association with Canada might have brought. The Trudeau Government of the day, however, rejected Mr. Saltzman's proposal.



**Brad Sigoun, MP Peter Goldring Edmonton East, MP Massimo Pacetti, Saint Leonard-Saint-Michael with Rosemarie Wilson, of The Turks & Caicos Islands Tourist Board.**

In April 1986, during the time of the Mulroney Government, The Turks and Caicos Islands once again approached

the Canadian government. A five member Progressive Conservative Committee formed by Winnipeg MP Dan McKenzie and chaired by Ottawa West MP, David Daubney, established plans to hold hearings on the issue before reporting to the party caucus. Mr. Ralph Higgs and Mr. Delton Jones were the primary persons traveling to Ottawa from The Turks and Caicos Islands to state their case and addressed the Progressive Conservative sub-committee on external affairs. The hearings were to determine whether to hold further exploratory talks with the islanders and representatives of the semi-autonomous British Colony. In the end, once again, Canada opted not to pursue union with The Turks and Caicos Islands. The reason not to consider association most certainly was not the distance from Ottawa (the riding of Edmonton



East is further from Ottawa than are The Turks and Caicos Islands).

In late 2003 I joined with businessmen Brad Sigouin and Richard Pearson of “A Place In The Sun” in once again promoting the association concept.

I most certainly do not advocate the “annexation” of The Turks and Caicos Islands, as this term is one that is associated with colonialism, implying the “taking control of land or territory by sometimes forceful means, without the peoples’ consent or agreement.” Nor do I advocate a union with the islands unless there is a



**Ralph Higgs, Director of The Turks & Caicos Islands Tourist Board, met with Peter Goldring in January 2007 to discuss opportunities for joint ventures.**

clear and determined great majority of overwhelming will by both countries’ citizens for such an association. This has not yet been determined. I do advocate an economic partnership, of one form or another, being negotiated between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands. This could mean partnering with the islands by establishing a free trade association with them, or perhaps establishing some sort of customs union.

I believe a Canada-Turks and Caicos Islands economic partnership or union represents an historic opportunity for Canada to have a new and positive influence in the greater Caribbean region. Partnership with The Turks and Caicos Islands would better formalize the “special relationship” Canada already enjoys

in the region and it would provide many mutually beneficial opportunities for both sides that would go far beyond Canadians merely having access to a tropical vacation destination. The Turks and Caicos Islands, specifically South Caicos Island, has the possible potential to be the principal deep-water trans-shipment centre for Canadian trade coming both to and from the entire Caribbean Rim region and beyond.

With the evolving geopolitical climate of the Caribbean there are many strategic issues to consider along with the mutually beneficial economic opportunities. With a Canadian platform of trade trans-

shipment from a deep-water port on Turks and Caicos’ South Caicos Island, Canada from its Atlantic ports would benefit greatly by a partnership and engagement.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are strategically located at the doorway to the Caribbean and beyond. As a consistently stable British territorial country it has the inherent stability required of a platform partnership location. It is about 200 kilometres off shore from Haiti and a somewhat similar distance from Cuba.

Canada has in the past staged its troop deployment to Haiti from The Turks and Caicos Islands. One could only imagine the great opportunities to directly engage the emerging Cuban economic interests from such a re-

gional base of operations. In addition to much greater trade and economic development in the region, the platform would also serve as a regional base for democratic development efforts as well as disaster assistance. The hurricane that devastated Grenada, Haiti and other islands underscores the need for regionally locating disaster assistance. From a very understandable, practical reason, if Canada is much more engaged economically and politically in the region it has greater capacity for emergency relief as well.

Exciting possibilities for both Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands exist with a greatly increased cooperative association. Overall, a closer association with the Caribbean, specifically with The Turks and Caicos Islands,

could only enhance trade, cultural, humanitarian and security interests for all concerned. Canada's founding fathers did not falter in their vision of a country of many diverse regions united together for peace and prosperity to the benefit of all. What is now required is the political will and vision expressed both by the Canadian people, as well as those from the Caribbean region, to make increasing cooperation happen.

Mr. Ralph Higgs of The Turks and Caicos Islands still envisions a close formal association. He now is Director of The Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board, and has kept the vision of closer association with Canada alive and well for 25 years. Canada should listen to the reasons of today for the mutual benefits of such an association.

**Update:** Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and farm products in the Caribbean and South America?

Yes       No

**Question #2** Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should explore improved political, economic, and humanitarian regional cooperation?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



# Haiti Reconstruction - "Make It Right"

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

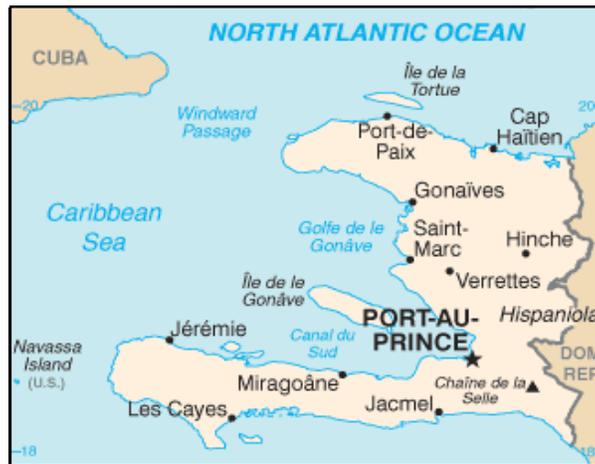
When international media reported a magnitude 7 earthquake striking Haiti January 12, disastrously affecting three million people, the world was shocked into collective action. Edmonton East Member of Parliament Peter Goldring, who was in Haiti in 2006, says the world must help Haitians rebuild their nation.

“Canada stands ready to provide any necessary assistance to the people of Haiti during this time of need.” He also spoke to President Obama, and both leaders agreed that Canada and the United States would coordinate our humanitarian response in Haiti.

## HAITI RECONSTRUCTION – “MAKE IT RIGHT”

Without waiting for a formal request from Haiti’s government, which might have taken days considering the chaos in the capital, Port-au-Prince, Canada was the first country to respond and Canadian aid was on the way.

As pictures of the devastation and destruction were shown on television screens and newspaper pages, the Canadian people reached out to the people of Haiti, donating millions of dollars in disaster relief in addition to money already pledged by the federal government.



Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, and occupies the western half of the island, with Port-au-Prince as its capital, which was the centre of the earthquake.

Canada’s initial response included a Canadian Forces DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) reconnaissance team, with supplies and expert personnel to assess the situation, that arrived in Haiti January 13. That was followed by a larger deployment of emergency supplies, personnel, and search and rescue helicopters as well as two Canadian naval ships loaded with food, bottled water, medical equipment and humanitarian supplies to provide crucial support. The Government also committed to matching the donations of individual Canadians to the relief

efforts made before February 12, up to \$50 million.

Canada has been a strong supporter of Haiti, the Western Hemisphere’s poorest country,

Prime Minister Stephen Harper stated,



giving more than \$100 million annually. Haiti receives more Canadian foreign aid than any country except Afghanistan, and Canada is the second largest donor to the Caribbean country.

However successes have been few and far between. Over the past 20 years of aid, precious few concrete gains have been made.

Haitian demographic and economic growth has been dismal:

- GDP has been flat-lined and is less than it was 20 years ago
- Life expectancy is 61 years
- Infant mortality rate is 5.9%
- Literacy is only 52.9%
- 80% of the population live below the poverty line
- The inflation rate is 15.5%
- Nearly half of Haitian children under five are malnourished
- 28% of those children die of malnourishment
- More than 20% of children between ages 6 and 9 don't attend school
- Only 15% of Haitian teachers meet the academic requirements to teach.

And now this disaster.

I have traveled extensively throughout the Caribbean, and I represented the Government of Canada, leading an all-party observer team for Haiti's 2006 parliamentary election. I followed this by writing an extensive report on

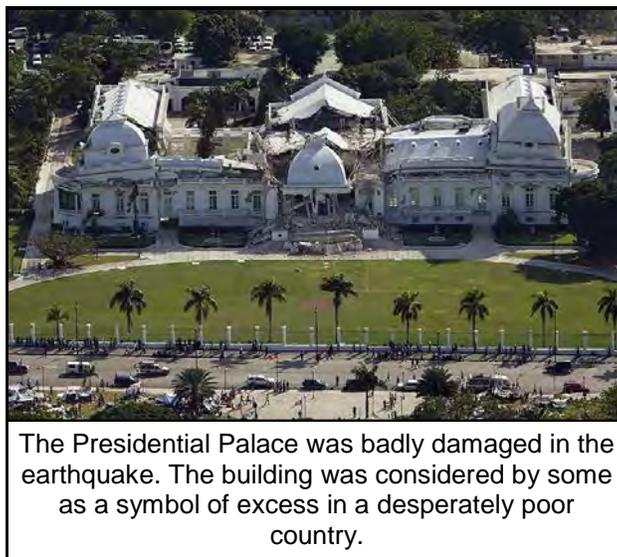
my observations of the island, its economic development and its geopolitical landscape domestically and regionally. It has long been known that for Haiti to lift itself out of its cycle of poverty, corruption and dependency real change was necessary, but there seemed to

be a lack of political will to upset the status quo. I believe that the international community, led by Canada, may have an opportunity to finally allow Haitians to rebuild their society, to make it a country where the people have hope of self sufficiency and not the despair of dependency.

One of the major tasks will be the rebuilding of the capital, Port-au-

Prince. When the bulldozers have cleared the rubble from the earthquake the city will essentially have to be rebuilt from the ground up. It is an opportunity for city planning and development of proper infrastructure, roads, sewers, bridges and proper housing to replace the ramshackle homes that were to be found before the earthquake. The loss of the opulent presidential palace, an extravagance in a land of desperate poverty and despair, might just usher in a new era of hope as buildings are re-built appropriately.

The earthquake destroyed the prison, another landmark of dubious significance. I visited this prison and saw first-hand the unbelievably primitive facilities and the horrendous overcrowded conditions of thousands of prisoners – some there for several years waiting for



The Presidential Palace was badly damaged in the earthquake. The building was considered by some as a symbol of excess in a desperately poor country.



their first day in court. The rebuilding of the bricks and mortar must be accompanied by the rebuilding of the judiciary.

Jacmel, the jewel of foreign aid programs, the hometown of Canadian Governor General Michaëlle Jean, was flattened as well by the earthquake. In 2006 I visited Jacmel and talked with the Mayor and other citizens. The whole town exuded a confidence and hope for the future. The townspeople showed pride in their progress their freshly painted homes and town buildings gleaming in the Caribbean sun. What a tragedy to have yet another blow strike this town of hope. We must help Jacmel to be rebuilt once again.

Canada could contribute further by training Haitian teachers, funding Canadian educational institutions to do so, and help build proper schools. In the 1980s, an estimated two per cent of Haitians controlled 44 per cent of the wealth. These conditions - extreme poverty, illiteracy and wealth being controlled by very few - are conditions that make Haiti a country that is ripe for the exploitation of labour. Education is one of the best methods to combat exploitation.

Agriculture is another important area to which Canada can contribute. Part of Haiti's renewal will be the assurance of self-sustainability of food production. Deforestation, due to large-

scale cutting of trees for firewood or making charcoal, has denuded mountains, created rapid runoff of tropical rain, which has stripped top soil, created disastrous flooding and filled in electricity generating dams. Traditional crops, previously exported in quantity, have shrunk measurably. In some areas, food assistance programs that were introduced for hurricane and flood victims years ago had been retained because of low food production levels. Canadian agricultural and reforestation experts could help re-establish a thriving agricultural community. No country has true independence if it cannot feed its citizens.



The Presidential Palace before the earthquake. France has offered to pay for its reconstruction.

Canadian assistance must not forget business development. A Canadian clothing manufacturer, Gildan, had one of its three Haitian plants badly damaged. Haitians need family-sustaining jobs. Gildan employed 5,000 workers at family-sustaining wages. While infrastructure is important, family-sustaining jobs are vital for future independence from foreign aid. Haitians don't want dependence and funding, they need family sustaining jobs.

Given Canada's historic close ties with Haiti it makes sense that our nation would be asked to lead worldwide efforts to rebuild Haiti, its economy, infrastructure and its social structure - which has been devastated by the effects of the January 12 earthquake.

I believe that Haiti's positive future will be determined by several factors: stable and effective government, a nation confident in its security and judiciary as well as a nation with economic growth opportunity. Haiti is a country with so much potential, but with little historically of the national stability necessary to achieve it. Perhaps that is why the world community, as it assists in rebuilding the ruined buildings and roads, should also assist this island nation in building democratic conditions and fairness that many nations in the world have taken for granted.

This time around we are starting essentially from scratch. The best thing Canada can do is assist the Haitian people to rebuild, to

“make it right.”

In my view, it is also time for some fresh thinking with respect to the future of Canadian political, economic and humanitarian relationships with the Caribbean, such as that of establishing a permanent platform in the Caribbean to address Canadian-Caribbean interests. I favour consideration of the Turks and Caicos Islands, given its relative political stability, strategic location at the doorway to the Caribbean and the long-standing interest on the part of residents of these islands for a more formal relationship with Canada. All Caribbean nations could also benefit, directly or indirectly, through such a Canadian platform of participation in the Caribbean.

**Update:** The Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Peter MacKay, recently visited Haiti to view the tragedy and assess future reconstruction needs.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Should Canada take the lead in the rebuilding of Haiti?

Yes

No

**Question #2** Should Canada play a stronger role in the Caribbean by way of a regional platform of trade distribution and humanitarian engagement?

Yes

No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
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The January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti reinforced the need for Canada to take a look at our relationship with the countries of the Caribbean. Peter Goldring has traveled extensively in the region and brings his perspective to the issue.

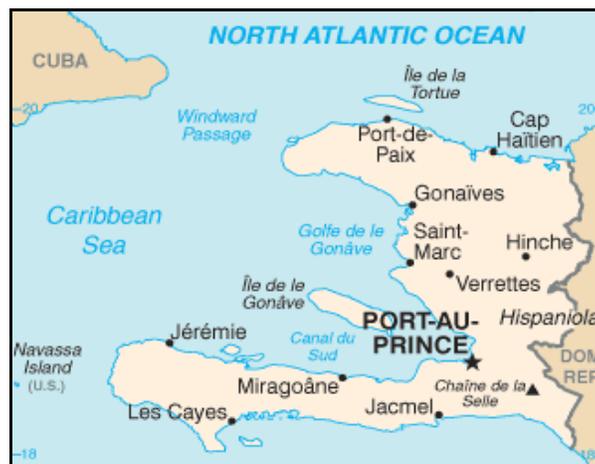
ning to re-build their shattered country and are looking to the world, including Canada, for help.

### CANADA IN THE CARIBBEAN

Canadian foreign policy towards the region has for the most part been consistent but unimaginative. Now, as the task of re-building Haiti is underway with the influx of billions of dollars, Canada should look at our role not only in Haiti but in the entire region. Canadians can be proud of our response to the disaster, with Canada being the first nation to offer aid and Canadians partnering with the Government to provide relief funds. As individuals and as a nation we have shown our compassion.

But now that the immediate life-saving and disaster work is finished, Haitians are begin-

That Canada will help is a given. Canadian aid to Haiti before the earthquake was already more than \$100 million annually. Canadian military and police officers were working in Haiti under the auspices of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and Canada's Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force (START).



Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, and occupies the western half of the island, with Port-au-Prince as its capital, which was the centre of the earthquake.

The task is a challenging one, but is also an opportunity to do things right in Haiti, perhaps for the first time in the country's history. Canada has taken the lead, bringing together international "Friends of Haiti" for a conference in Montreal to start work on the enormous task of re-building the shattered country.

As someone who has traveled to Haiti in the past, I understand the desperate need of the country even before the earthquake, and applaud our Government for its quick response



to the humanitarian crisis following the earthquake, a response echoed by individual citizens initiatives to help all across Canada.

But with the emergency needs dealt with we should look not only at Haiti and how Canada can help, but at our policy for dealing with the Caribbean region. There is so much more Canada can be doing that would be benefit those countries and ourselves at the same time.

Canadian ties to the region go back before Confederation, as sailors from our Maritime provinces would frequently be involved with trade in the Caribbean, a trade that saw Canadian goods like lumber being shipped south and tropical agricultural products coming north.

That movement of goods has been mirrored in recent years by the movement of people. Thousands of Canadians travel to the Caribbean each year for a sun-filled vacation, while thousands from the Caribbean countries have emigrated to Canada, braving the Canadian winter in search of a better life.

While Canada was once very active in the Caribbean, in recent years we seem to have become less engaged – and it has been noticed. It has only been since the election of the Conservative government that more ef-

forts of re-engagement with the region have taken place. I have traveled in the region extensively and a common concern among the Caribbean countries I visited was the sense that in the recent past Canada had pulled back from the Caribbean, politically and economically.



Haiti's Presidential Palace was badly damaged in the earthquake. The building was considered by some as a symbol of excess in a desperately poor country.

The population of the entire Caribbean Rim of nations is more than 120 million. The need for more active and conscientious Canadian engagement in the region is paramount. Canadian goals and policy in the region are in need of refinement. Goals should be clearly established in relation to three principal areas: political engagement,

economic development, and humanitarian/security assistance. There is much interest in the region for enhanced Canadian involvement to develop a regular, direct, deep water mid-sized shipping trade route to Canada, for Canadian partnership in value added diversified crop production, food processing, manufacturing and business development.

In February 2004 Canada sent peacekeepers to Haiti in response to unrest there, utilizing The Turks and Caicos Islands as a staging ground. I have long advocated locating a Canadian deep-water port facility in the Caribbean region, a free-trade platform that could be used for humanitarian aid purposes and for a regional business development trade



centre. The Turks and Caicos Islands have shown serious interest in participating in such a partnership. Less than 10% of the island chain has been fully developed at present. The cost of linking islands by a system of inter-island causeways still remains beyond the Islands' current modest economic means. The shallow water causeway development, combined with a deep-water port on South Caicos, would dramatically change the economic character of the islands.

Deep-water container shipping transport from Canada's Maritimes with trade product redistribution throughout the Caribbean, from South Caicos, would greatly diversify the Islands' economy and bring to the Islands consumer goods and food products at reduced cost. With deep-water shipping port and causeway development, the central islands could be considered for agriculture, tourism and small to medium manufacturing or processing facilities, all of which would provide job diversification and a permanent infrastructure support base made possible by business development. A recently developed deep-water port on Grand Turk allows cruise ships to debark tourists. The possibilities are literally endless. The Island government would, of course, control all development of the region.

In recent years Canada's traditional trading partners for manufactured finished goods, forestry, cattle and farm products have shrunken for a variety of competitive and political reasons. A substantive trade market exists throughout the Caribbean for these and other Canadian resource and manufactured products. Canadian maritime container shipping ports can actively develop this trade potential through a deep water distribution port developed in the Turks and Caicos designed to serve domestic requirements but also a population of over 100 million persons of not only the Caribbean market but also Caribbean Rim countries such as Mexico, Central American states, and portions of South America.

While Canadian peacekeeping and disaster relief expertise is called for in the Caribbean, the home base of any operation is extremely remote. With a platform in The Turks and Caicos Islands, Canada would be in a position to more readily offer assistance. For example, Canada could have facilities on the islands for a 100 member rotated security and patrol force involved in tropical training exercises supported by a long range search and rescue helicopter and coastal patrol boats. The military DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) could be based there



Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East is promoting close social and economic ties with the Caribbean group of nations.

for the part of the year (hurricane season) when it is most likely to be needed.

In a general sense, there must be greater Canadian political involvement in issues involving the Caribbean and in the representative organizations in the region, such as CARICOM. Canada is inextricably tied to the Caribbean through culture, immigration and history, but could do much better in the enhancement of its current economic and humanitarian efforts in the region. In an era of seeking new trade markets and development partnerships, Canada could and should be far more robustly engaged in the Caribbean.

As Canada becomes less involved in the Caribbean, China, Taiwan, Japan, Brazil, Venezuela and a number of other countries are continuing efforts to establish their own major spheres of political and economic influence in the region. From the perspective of lost Canadian opportunities, this is a regrettable state of affairs.

**Update:** Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Your Opinion Matters...</b></p> <p><b>Question #1:</b> Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade and economic development in the Caribbean and South America?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No         </p> <p><b>Question #2:</b> Do you think that The Turks and Caicos Islands would make a good platform for Canada to develop its trade and economic development in the region?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No         </p> <p>Comments: _____          _____          _____</p>	<p>Name: _____              Address: _____              City: _____              Postal Code: _____              Telephone: _____</p> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px dashed gray; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                 No Postage Required             </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Peter Goldring</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Member of Parliament</b>  <b>Edmonton East</b>                  House of Commons                  Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6</p> </div>
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# A Mexican Student's View Of Parliament

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

As a member of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, Peter Goldring understands the importance of improved relations between countries. For many years he has hosted university students from Ukraine in his Parliament Hill office, and in both 2009 and 2010 has hosted students from Mexico.

gaged in projects that focus on improving of the quality of life of Mexican people. Therefore, as soon as I began my college studies, I've been searching for the best way of achieving that. I just finished my third year and I believe that the best way a person can learn something is by experiencing it. Although we are taught

how government works, you don't really understand it, until you are an active participant. In every country, most people blame their government for not giving them the results they hoped for. Although the government may have some flaws, I still believe most of the blame rests on the citizens.

## A MEXICAN STUDENT'S VIEW OF PARLIAMENT

By

Paola Moses Núñez de Cáceres

Commitment, passion and experience are the three main traits that define Mr. Peter Goldring's work on Parliament Hill. My name is Paola Moses, and as an International Relations student in the Universidad de Monterrey in Mexico, I had the honour of working as an intern in Mr. Goldring's office for the past month.

Throughout my life I have always been en-



Paola Moses Núñez de Cáceres came from the University of Monterrey in Mexico to learn about the Canadian Parliamentary system and the workings of an MP's office.

most don't take any action. In Canada, I've learned that citizens' opinions do matter, and that is because they take their time to let their Member of Parliament know what they need. Mr. Goldring likes to keep his constituents informed and satisfied, which proves how



committed he is to Edmonton East. Regularly he sends newsletters to his constituency, informing his constituents of everything that has been going on in the country, the role the government has in those issues and especially, his work on those matters. The feedback he receives from those newsletters is taken into account and, he then seeks for the best way to make their opinion heard in Parliament. Something that has really surprised me is that every letter the office receives must be answered, which proves Mr. Goldring's involvement and dedication with his riding and country.



Marisol Ruiz was studying International Development at the University of Monterrey when she came to Ottawa in 2009 to work in Peter Goldring's Parliament Hill office. She said it was "an important educational experience."

On my first day in the office, I was informed that Mr. Goldring would be having a business trip to Mexico, and even though I am well aware of Canada-Mexico ties, I learned that there is much more to be done in this aspect. On May 27, Mexican President Felipe Calderon addressed the House of Commons and I had the opportunity to assist. I regularly follow Mexican news and was shocked when I heard all the good things my president is doing to help improve

Mexican security. Apparently news companies have been dedicated to pointing out all the bad things going on in the country and not the efforts done by the government. I was glad to discover that, just as I do, Mr. Calderon believes in change and democracy. Although my country is going through a rough patch, Mr. Calderon has held his head high, and has continued to govern the country the way he sees fit, not once has he neglected his responsibilities in other matters. He mentioned both countries relationship regarding the North American Free Trade Agreement, and emphasized the great help Canada has granted to the development of our economy. Mr. Calderon

and Speaker Milliken talked about the Inter-Parliamentary Meetings our Congress and the Canadian Parliament have had. The Canadian Parliamentary System and Mexican Presidential System have many differences, but they both aim for the same thing, democracy. As a student in International Relations, I have become interested in Comparative Politics, therefore I admire the work done by the Canadian Parliament and the Mexican Congress. I believe that as a country we need to be willing to learn from other countries' sys-



tems and management, and Canada is one of the best examples to follow.

My favourite activity as an intern has been to attend the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee

where Mr. Goldring is a member. As an observer, I could see how Mr. Goldring prepares for each meeting, and how he attempts to best represent both his constituents and Canadian citizens. Being an International Relations student, and a foreigner to this country, I truly appreciate the work being done in the Committee.



While the interns do a lot of work during their time in Ottawa, there is also time to explore the country. Marisol Ruiz had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Hard working members, like Mr. Goldring, demonstrate each meeting the passion they have for their country, for its well being, and for its involvement in international issues. In Committee it is easy to observe the interaction MP's of different parties, and how they truly stand for the values that each party represents.

Students learn that having experience is very important and that it makes you stand out from a bunch of people. We normally take it into account, but I was impressed to see that

in Mr. Goldring's case it is completely true. His experiences in government and as a businessman give him an insight most people don't have. During Committee he normally analyzes both points of view in order to deliver a proper judgement.

Before I came here, I tried to picture myself interning in an MP's office, and I did not know what to expect. I'm glad to say it exceeded any expectation I could have had. My perspective on politicians has changed dramatically after interning for a remarkable MP. I have learned to value the work being done by the office staff, which I believe people usually don't appreciate. Without the office staff, an MP

would not be able to get as much done and with the quality that the whole office is able to achieve. I am really privileged to be part of a hard working staff and I am grateful that they have taken their time to teach me all they can about Canadian Government and making me feel very welcomed.

Canada is distinguished worldwide for being bilingual and it is amazing how well they manage to incorporate both languages to their daily and political life. During my stay here, I have had the opportunity to practice

both languages, in Committee, Question Period and on a day to day basis. Canada is characterized for its order, security, and for being full of nice people, and when you are in the country you get to actually experience that.

My work here is coming to an end, and although I am a little sad to return home, I am convinced that this internship has helped me grow. Not only have I learned how Canadians run their country, I have also learned that there is hope for Mexico. If countries like Canada believe in Mexico and in Mexicans, we will be able to achieve democracy and prosperity soon. With the knowledge I gathered from my experience here, I hope to someday make a change for my country. I've realized how important citizen participa-

tion is for the better representation of our interests and from now on, I will get much more involved on issues that concern my country. I look forward to promoting citizen participation and accountability from our respective politicians, just as they do here. I hope Mr. Goldring keeps giving this opportunity to more students in the future, so that just like me, they can see the world from a different perspective. I am very grateful with Mr. Goldring and his staff for believing in me, and I know I won't let them down.

**Update:** Mr. Goldring's Ottawa office will once again host a university student intern from Ukraine in September and October 2010.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

Do you agree it is important to foster international understanding by giving internship opportunities to young people?

Yes       No

Should Canada review the visa requirements for Mexican citizens who wish to visit here?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Peter Goldring represented the Government of Canada (with Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette and MP Randy Hoback) at a regional workshop for Parliamentarians of the Americas held in Mexico City in May 2010 to discuss the Doha Development Round of trade talks, including the challenges and opportunities for Canada.

works to strengthen the role of legislatures in democratic development and to promote harmonization of legislation and hemispheric integration as instruments of sustainable and harmonious development in the region.

FIPA was constituted at the Inaugural Meeting hosted by the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa, 2001. At the yearly FIPA Plenary

The May 20-22 meetings were sponsored by the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas.

Meetings parliamentarians of the Americas discuss themes of importance in the hemisphere, such as the role of women in parliament, security and the role of legislators in enhancing hemispheric security and the challenges and opportunities of hemispheric integration and economic development.

The Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) is an independent network made up of the national legislatures of those governments who are members of the Organization of American States (OAS). FIPA members are committed to promoting parliamentary participation in the inter-American system and to developing inter-parliamentary dialogue on issues of importance to the hemisphere. FIPA seeks to encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices amongst its members, and



Peter (at right) along with Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament for Prince Albert and Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette stand in front of the sign banner detailing the purpose of the conference.

additional attention to issues that have been deemed to be particularly important or pressing. Through regular meetings, year round discussion, and firm action FIPA



members uphold their commitments and advance the objectives of the organization.

The Doha Development Agenda was established by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 and is named after the city of Doha, in Qatar, where the procedure was established. The WTO itself is an organization created in 1994 as the outcome of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). While 123 countries had taken part in the final round of GATT talks, the WTO has 153 member countries, with others in the process of negotiating membership.

There are 21 subjects listed in the Doha Declaration, most of them involving trade negotiations.

At the FIPA Mexico conference Parliamentarians from North, South and Central America, as well as the Caribbean, were updated on the most recent developments in international trade negotiations, including the underlying principles behind the multilateral trade system, the WTO and the Doha Development Agenda.

As well as basic discussion there were more specific sessions on agriculture, aid for trade, trade liberalization, gender issues

and trade in services (as opposed to trade in goods).

As part of our Government's renewed emphasis on the Americas, Canada has increasingly in recent years looked to expand

and improve upon relations with Latin America (South and Central America) and the Caribbean. That has led to a number of Free Trade agreements being signed with individual countries.

As a matter of interest, in four short years our Conservative Government has signed new free trade agreements with eight countries: Columbia, Peru, Jordan, Panama, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland

and Liechtenstein. This compares very favourably with the record of free trade agreements signed by the Liberals: in 13 years they signed only four.

For Canada, Latin America is an important market. Mexico, for example is Canada's fifth largest export market, with \$4.8 billion annually in Canadian goods shipped to that country (\$1.1 billion from Alberta). Canada also imports \$16.5 billion in Mexican products each year. Mexican President Felipe Calderon Hinojosa visited Canada in May and spoke to Parliament, emphasizing the close ties between the two countries.



Peter, along with Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette and MP Randy Hoback took time away from the conference to discuss regional issues with Guillermo E. Rishchynski, Ambassador of Canada to Mexico over a breakfast at his residence.



He spoke too of issues of common concern, the requirement by Canada for visas for visiting Mexicans. In retaliation Mexico now requires Canadian holders of special passports, such as parliamentarians, also to obtain a Mexican visa before any visit to Mexico.

The relationship with Mexico is typical of that with other Latin American countries in that Canada imports more from those countries than it exports. As trade with the region is liberalized, and Canadian companies become more aware of the opportunities in the Latin American market, that trade imbalance should decrease.

Recent years have seen economic and legal reforms which have helped create a more predictable environment for commercial engagement. Democracy is widespread and gaining strength, which means global direct investment, including Canadian investment, is becoming more common in the region. For example, foreign investment has been a significant driver of rapid development in the telecommunications sector, which in turn is expected to help raise productivity and living standards throughout the hemisphere.

Commercial opportunities for Canadian business are plentiful and wide ranging. The tourism industry and infrastructure projects in Central America and the Caribbean are creating opportunities for suppliers of building products and construction, and environmental services. The mineral and energy-rich Andean countries are important to Canadian extractive industries as Canada is a world leader in the mining sector. They offer strong growth potential for Canadian suppliers of related information and communication technologies and environmental products and services.



Discussions were thorough and continued through lunches and dinners, as evidenced by Peter's table guests, a Cabinet Minister from St. Lucia on Peter's left and MPs from Jamaica to his right.

The Government of Canada and Canadian companies play a key role in the promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the region. Most recently the Government of Canada has announced a CSR strategy for the Canadian International Extractive Sector. As world leaders in CSR, Canadian companies can work with national governments and local interest groups in developing procedures that are environmentally friendly as well as being socially responsible.

The Government of Canada has identified Latin America and the Caribbean as a Global Commerce Strategy priority market,

developing a comprehensive Market Plan identifying the sectors that offer clear market opportunities well suited to Canadian capabilities and interests in the region. This was done based on extensive consultation with government, academic and Canadian business and industry representatives.

Those sectors include: building products and construction; electric power equipment and services; environmental industries; information and communication technology; and oil and gas equipment and services.

The Government of Canada's goal for Latin America and the Caribbean is to help build a more prosperous, democratic and secure hemisphere and boost Canada's presence in the region. Canadian commercial engage-

ment is a key mechanism for achieving this. Having acquired knowledge of Mexico during 10 previous visits (to all parts of the country) before becoming a Member of Parliament has given me a good basic understanding of Mexico's problems and economic complexities.

For Canadian parliamentarians attendance at international conferences, such as the one in Mexico City, allows the building of relationships with their counterparts in other countries. It is the parliamentarians who make the final decisions on international agreements. Attendance at international conferences can help facilitate those agreements as parliamentarians from different countries have the opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest with their counterparts.

**Update:** While Peter Goldring was in Mexico, and afterward, his Ottawa office hosted a Mexican student intern. Paola Moses, a student at the University of Monterrey, spent five weeks in Ottawa, during which time she learned much about the working of our Canadian government.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

Should Canada actively promote increased trade ties with the Americas?

Yes       No

Should Canada review the visa requirements for Mexican citizens who wish to visit here?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

# The Turks and Caicos Islands



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Much discussion has been held over the years about Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands developing closer economic and political ties. Member of Parliament Peter Goldring has been promoting such dialogue for a number of years and explains why consideration is still currently appropriate.

In 2010 Mr. Brant Hasanen and the Kamloops, British Columbia, Chamber of Commerce did a preliminary study examining the economic impact of closer integration between The Turks and Caicos Islands and Canada. The report estimates a \$9 billion benefit to Canada. This encouraging conclusion is certainly worthy of follow-up.

Closer ties with Canada could become an issue in the upcoming election in The Turks and Caicos Islands, which are expected to be held in 2012 if the Islands current positive progress is continued. (Self-rule in the British Overseas Territory was suspended in 2009 due to allegations of widespread corruption.)

In June 2009 Liberal Member of Parliament Massimo Pacetti, after consulting with Conservative Member of Parliament Peter Goldring, introduced this motion in the House of Commons, which Mr. Goldring seconded:

*That, in the opinion of the House, the government should immediately mandate two (2) Members of Parliament, one (1) from the governing party and one (1) from the official opposition party, to begin discussions with representatives of The Turks and Caicos Islands in establishing a framework in order to determine areas of enhanced partnership in trade, social and economic development.*

Mr. Pacetti introduced his motion because of renewed interest in both Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands in both Canada and the Islands. At the request of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Goldring facilitated an informal meeting between then Turks and Caicos Islands Premier Galmo Williams and Prime Minister

Stephen Harper when the Prime Minister was attending the Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009.



**Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East is promoting close social & economic ties with the Caribbean group of nations.**



Mr. Goldring has long had considerable interest in the Caribbean, The Turks and Caicos Islands and their relationship to Canada, even before being appointed as the Opposition Foreign Affairs Critic (Caribbean Region) during the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Session in 2004. He has travelled extensively in the Caribbean region and visited some 12 countries.

In government he has had an advocacy role with respect to the Caribbean region and is serving on the Parliamentary Friendship Groups' for Canada-Cuba as Director and Canada-Caribbean as Vice-Chair, and has served on the Canada-Mexico and Canada-Haiti Committees. He has also been a member of the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee in the House of Commons and has monitored elections in the region, specifically in Haiti and Guyana.

In the summer of 2005, using his own funds, he travelled to Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica to see firsthand the effects of Hurricane Ivan and reported to Parliament. He also took the time to meet with political and business people about the evolving geopolitical and economic climate of the region. He first travelled to The Turks and Caicos Islands in 2003, again using his own funds, to gauge public opinion of the islands' prospects, touring both Provo Island and Grand Turks Island.

Discussion of a partnership union or formalized association between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands began in 1917 with Prime Minister Robert Borden, was noted and then shelved, as was a similar initiative made by Britain that Canada help with the governance of all British colonies in the Caribbean (then called the British West Indies).

In more recent years, movement for a Canada-Turks and Caicos partnership or union was en-

couraged in 1974 by then New Democratic Party Member of Parliament, Max Saltzman, a rather ironic name given the island's historical industry. The Turks and Caicos Islands was a significant source of supply of very necessary salt for Canada's Atlantic fishing industry, obtained by water evaporation in substantial salt works. The Turks and Caicos Islands coinage depicts Dutch style windmills

used to pump seawater for its historically most important industry, salt panning. The islands of course had moved on from the salt panning industry and were looking for the economic development and tourism that association with Canada might have brought. The Trudeau Government of the day, however, rejected Mr. Saltzman's proposal.

In April 1986 The Turks and Caicos Islands once again approached the Canadian government. A five member Progressive Conservative Committee formed by Winnipeg MP Dan



**Brad Sigoun, MP Peter Goldring Edmonton East, MP Massimo Pacetti, Saint Leonard-Saint-Michael with Rosemarie Wilson, of The Turks & Caicos Islands Tourist Board.**



McKenzie and chaired by Ottawa West MP, David Daubney, established plans to hold hearings on the issue before reporting to the party caucus. The hearings were to determine whether to hold further exploratory talks with the islanders and representatives of the semi-autonomous British Colony. Mr. Ralph Higgs and Mr. Delton Jones were the primary persons traveling to Ottawa from The Turks and Caicos Islands to state their case and addressed the Progressive Conservative sub-committee on external affairs. In the end, Canada opted not to pursue union with The Turks and Caicos Islands.

In late 2003 Mr. Goldring joined with businessmen Brad Sigouin and Richard Pearson of "A Place In The Sun" in once again promoting the association concept.

What Mr. Goldring advocates is an economic partnership, of one form or another, being negotiated between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands. Most certainly he does not advocate for the annexation of the islands by Canada, as this term is associated with colonialism, implying the "taking control of land or territory by sometimes forceful means, without the peoples' consent or agreement." The economic partnership could involve partnering with the islands by establishing a free trade association with them, or perhaps establishing some sort of customs union. Mr. Goldring does not advocate political union unless there is a clear and determined

majority will by both countries' citizens at some time in the distant future for such a political association.

He believes a Canada-Turks and Caicos Islands economic partnership or union represents an historic opportunity for Canada to have a new and positive influence in the greater Caribbean region. Partnership with The Turks and Caicos Islands would better formalize the "special relationship" Canada already

enjoys in the region and provide many mutually beneficial opportunities for both sides - going far beyond Canadians merely having access to a tropical vacation destination. The Turks and Caicos Islands, specifically South Caicos Island, has the possible potential to be the principal deep-water transshipment centre for Canadian trade coming both to and from the entire Caribbean Rim region and beyond.



**Ralph Higgs, Director of The Turks & Caicos Islands Tourist Board, met with Peter Goldring in January 2007 to discuss opportunities for joint ventures.**

yond.

With a Canadian platform of trade transshipment from a deep-water port on Turks and Caicos' South Caicos Island, Canada from its Atlantic ports would benefit greatly by a partnership and engagement. The Turks and Caicos Islands are strategically located at the doorway to the Caribbean and beyond. As a consistently stable British territorial country it has the inherent stability required of a platform partnership location. It is about 200 kilometres off shore from Haiti and a somewhat similar distance

from Cuba.

Canada has in the past staged its troop deployment to Haiti from The Turks and Caicos Islands. One could only imagine the great opportunities to directly engage the emerging Cuban economic interests from such a regional base of operations. In addition to much greater trade and economic development in the region, the platform would also serve as a regional base for democratic development efforts as well as disaster assistance. The hurricane that devastated Grenada, Haiti and other islands underscores the need for regionally locating disaster assistance. From a very understandable, practical reason, if Canada is much more engaged economically and politically in the region it has

greater capacity for emergency relief as well.

Exciting possibilities for both Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands exist with a greatly increased cooperative association. Overall, a closer association with the Caribbean, specifically with The Turks and Caicos Islands, could only enhance trade, cultural, humanitarian and security interests for all concerned.

Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal, in anticipation of an increased interaction with our trade partners.

Update: Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal.

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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.*

**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and products in the Caribbean and South America?**

Yes  No

**Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should explore improved political, economic and humanitarian regional cooperation?**

Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Peter Goldring**  
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Canada currently consists of 10 provinces and 3 territories that border on 3 of the world's oceans. The issue of expansion is not a new one within Canada and is even written in our constitution and has been enacted numerous times over our history. The notion of expanding Canada's country with the hope for Canada to acquire a new, 11<sup>th</sup>, province remains up for debate to this day.

Canada is currently a nation consisting of 10 provinces and 3 territories that border on 3 of the world's oceans. The issue of expansion is not a new one within Canada and is even written in our constitution and has been enacted numerous times over our history. The notion of expanding Canada's country with the hope for Canada to acquire a new, 11<sup>th</sup>, province remains up for debate to this day.

The location of this new potential province is, as you may have guessed, the Turks and Caicos Islands which, while 2,000km from Ottawa, is closer than Ed-

monton. The concept of Canada 'uniting' or creating a 'special relationship' with the Turks and Caicos is certainly nothing new. The idea that the Turks and Caicos join Canada is nearly 100 years old, as it was originally in 1917 that Prime Minister Robert Borden initially mused about this possibility. The idea lay dormant for many years, as a bill was only introduced in 1974 to unite these two countries. Unfortunately, this private member's bill did not pass the House of Commons at that time. The issue was breached again in 1988 as officials of the Turks and Caicos Islands

took the initiative to approach the Canadian government in regards to establishing a special relationship between the two nations. At this point in time 90 percent of the Turks and Caicos population was in favour of a union with Canada. However, the prospect to unite the two countries failed in 1988 due to poor timing as the debate over free-trade with the United States started to heat up and consume the nation's political attention.

With Canada coming close to closing this un-

With Canada coming close to closing this un-



Peter Goldring, MP Edmonton East, Brad Sigouin and Richard Pearson of "A Place in the Sun" and Massimo Pacetti, MP Saint-Léonard—Saint-Michel meet to discuss the issue.



ion on several occasions, I decided to formally take up the mantle and renew this possibility. In 2003, I put forth a Motion in the House of Commons to craft a union between the two countries. In late 2003 I joined with Brad Sigouin and Richard Pearson to work with the Ottawa group "A Place in the Sun" to once again promote the association concept. I then flew to the Islands to explore directly their interest, holding meetings with British Governor Jim Poston, Premier Michael Misick, and Ralph Higgs the Director of the Turks and Caicos Tourism Board. There is a lot of merit to be found in the idea of this union, as it presents many favorable outcomes for both the Turks and Caicos Islands as well as for our great nation of Canada.

When many Canadians consider the possibility of having the Turks and Caicos as a part of Canada, their eyes light up at the potential of having easy access to pristine beaches and crystal clear water. For most Canadians, this is selling point enough as no further argument needs to be made. After all, Canadians holiday to the South far more than the East and West, so having a Canadian Southern holiday destination could be beneficial for Canadian unity. For a smaller percentage of Canadians, having access to a warm climate is nice, but not a big enough advantage to go through the process of forming a union.

However, there is a much deeper draw to being connected with Turks and Caicos, as it provides a highly advantageous situation for both nations involved. For many years I have been promoting the business concept of the Turks and Caicos becoming a platform for Canadian economic engagement.

In 2010 Mr. Brant Hasanen and the Kamloops, British Columbia, Chamber of Commerce did a preliminary study examining the economic impact of

closer integration between the Turks and Caicos Islands and Canada. The report estimates a \$9 billion benefit to Canada's economy.

The most important benefit that this union would bring to Canada is the sheer economic impact it would have due to the greater access it would afford us to the Latin and South American regions. The Turks

and Caicos Islands are strategically located at the doorway to the Caribbean and beyond. As a consistently stable British territorial country it has the inherent stability required of a platform partnership location.

Regionally, the Turks and Caicos participates as an Associate Member in the Caribbean Community, or CARICOM. CARICOM integrates its members into a common market economy, while also dealing with regional security issues. The islands' participation as a Canadian province in CARICOM would pro-



Canadian-owned Scotiabank is already located on the Turks and Caicos Islands, a sign of the economic grassroots foundation which Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands already share.



vide an excellent institutional, economic, and security segue into the Caribbean community for Canada. Canadian trade and influence could be greatly expanded into the region. While CARICOM represents only seven percent of the countries in the region, they represent a growing population of over 14 million people, and a US\$46 billion economy.

The Caribbean Rim of countries offers a much larger population of some 100 million. In addition with Cuba emerging more Western leaning and an excellent relationship with Canada it poses immense potential for Canadian economic investment.

With the economic reasoning aside, uniting with the Turks and Caicos Islands would give Canada a new base to operate out of for relief and military purposes. While Canadian peacekeeping expertise is called for in the Caribbean, the home base of any operation is extremely remote. If the Turks and Caicos were Canada's 11<sup>th</sup> province, Canada would be in a position to more readily offer assistance. We must be aware that when Canadian troops were sent to Haiti they staged from the Turks and Caicos.

In addition, with the volatile weather conditions in the Caribbean it certainly would benefit by having a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) emergency unit on the Islands.

These are just several highlights from a long

list of benefits Canada would reap from this union, which also include a Caribbean port for Canada's naval training exercises, a port for Canada Steamship Line to be registered and paying taxes in Canada, and a year-round Summer Olympic Training Centre.

On the other side of the coin, the Turks and Caicos Islands would see many positives as well. There are currently significant infrastructure needs that remain to be met in order for

the Islanders to advance economically. It must be appreciated that less than 10% of the island chain has been fully developed at present. The cost of linking the primary islands (Providential, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, East Caicos and South Caicos) by a system of inter-island causeways still remains beyond the Islands' current economic means although the cost is marginal by Canadian

standards. Such a project would greatly aid the development of the sparsely settled North, Middle and South Islands and would foster economic growth. The shallow water causeway development, combined with deep-water ports on South Caicos and Grand Turk, would dramatically change the economic character of the islands.

With deep-water shipping ports and causeway development, the central islands could be considered for agriculture, tourism and



Helping the Islands to develop a deepwater port would benefit Canada by producing a platform for regional distribution and trade.

small to medium manufacturing or processing facilities, all of which would provide job diversification and a permanent infrastructure support base made possible by business development.

As well, with the Islands having access to Canada in areas such as post-secondary education, it will help address the need for greatly increased training for expanded economic and employment opportunities in a diversified Turks and Caicos marketplace.

It must be noted that by myself and others raising the prospect of being linked with Canada it has positively impacted the Islands, as international attention has brought much goodwill, attention and reportedly some \$20 million free

advertising to the nation.

Exciting possibilities for both Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands exist with a greatly increased cooperative association. Overall, having a closer association with the Caribbean, specifically the Turks and Caicos Islands, could only enhance trade, cultural, humanitarian and security interests for all concerned.

**UPDATE: On October 15, 2012, the new Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands came into force. The new constitution, which was a joint product of the UK and the Turks and Caicos, marks the beginning of the end of the United Kingdom-led Interim Administration and the countdown to elections in the Turks and Caicos Islands.**

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Have you ever visited or vacationed in The Turks and Caicos Islands?

Yes       No

**Question #2** Do you believe that Canada and the Turks and Caicos should forge a special economic relationship?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Peter Goldring**  
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, was honoured to be personally invited to accompany Senator Don Meredith to unofficially but officially represent the Parliament of Canada at Jamaica's August 2013 Independence Day. While in Jamaica Mr. Goldring also conducted talks about Canada-Jamaica trade. This is his report.

Senator Meredith was aware of Mr. Goldring's extensive experience in the Caribbean, both in Opposition as critic for the Caribbean under leader Stockwell Day, and as well as a Government member of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. In addition to his committee and critic duties, Mr. Goldring has also served as an election monitor in Caribbean Rim countries, as well as taking part in several fact-finding missions in the area. The Senator is chair of the Canada-Caribbean Parliamentary committee, on which Mr. Goldring has served for many years at vari-

ous executive levels. While in Jamaica Mr. Goldring attended numerous political events, including "The Grand Gala," and the "Jamaica's: Triumphant, Proud, and Free" extravaganza at the Youth in Agriculture Day at the National Stadium. He also participated in a Global Trade Exchange and Symposium, as well as Prime Minister's Day, on Jamaica's 51st Independence Day, August 6, 2013. Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, the leader of the governing People's National Party spoke on the challenges and triumphs Jamaica has faced throughout the years, reminding Jamaicans that they are now a more prosperous, productive, and peaceful country, a country that now has the freedom to showcase their talent and aptitudes; who now have the chance to enjoy the dignity and respect of their national identity.



Mr. Goldring met Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, the leader of the governing People's National Party, who spoke on the challenges and triumphs Jamaica has faced throughout the years.

As Prime Minister Miller stated: "We are a people of courage and resilience, putting forward one foot after the other, confident that the Almighty is guiding our steps."



Presented by the Jamaica Agricultural Society, which was established in 1895, the Denbigh Agricultural Industrial and Food Show is the oldest show of its type in the English-speaking Caribbean. From its inception the Jamaica Agricultural Society has been dedicated to bringing together the island's farming community to help individual farmers become more efficient and productive and aid in marketing both domestically and internationally. Mr. Goldring attended the show to discuss opportunities for increased Canada-Jamaica trade, as a key aspect to the 2013 edition of the show was the Global Trade Exchange, a forum to bring Jamaican producers together with those from other countries interested in purchasing their products, and also to allow foreign producers the chance to form alliances with their Jamaican counterparts.

"Meetings like these are important," Mr. Goldring says, "to allow those of us from Canada attending to see what is going on politically and economically in the Caribbean. Historically we have close ties to Jamaica, both in terms of economy and immigration. The country is an important part of the Commonwealth that we share membership in. There are many things that our producers can learn from what is being done in Jamaica."

As well as meetings with Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller while attending the Denbigh Show, Mr. Goldring took the opportunity to meet with other Jamaican political leaders, including cabinet ministers, with the aim of fostering closer ties. He also met to discuss agricultural issues and economic opportunities in Jamaica, including the path of economic growth and national development, with the Honourable Roger Clarke,

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Honourable Philip Paulwell, Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining, and the Honourable Arnold Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

Jamaica is Canada's third-largest trade partner among the CARICOM countries (after Trinidad and Tobago and The Bahamas) and is an increasingly im-

portant trading partner, with Canadian imports from Jamaica in 2011 at \$274.1 million. There is however a trade imbalance between the two countries, as Jamaican imports from Canada in 2011 were only \$112.1 million. In his discussions with Jamaican officials Mr. Goldring discussed this imbalance and asked for their input on how the numbers could be brought closer together.

Mr. Goldring identified one distinctive area where Canada and Jamaica could work cooperatively. Jamaica has been pro-



While in Jamaica Mr. Goldring met with several individuals to discuss agricultural issues and economic opportunities in Jamaica, including the path of economic growth and national development.



moting a 'Grow Jamaican, Eat Jamaican' food policy, looking towards being self-sufficient, specifically in meat and potato products. Given that Jamaica has large tracts of developed and undeveloped land available, Mr. Goldring suggested partnering with a Canadian company such as McCain Foods to develop land for domestic use and also to greatly increase productivity.

Mr. Goldring specifically asked for an extensive tour and discussion with management of Kingston Port. Jamaica's port security for imports, and transshipment is of the highest of order with up-to-date container x-ray equipment, television monitoring and physically manned security. Much of the x-raying and other security equipment has been provided as aid assistance by the United States, China, and other countries, most likely having decided that it is better to assist in intervention of contraband or illegal immigrants in Jamaica than in Florida or Texas.

Another area of great interest to the Jamaican Government is energy imports, specifically Liquid Natural Gas (LNG). Should Canada develop fossil fuel export port facilities, fed by the proposed reversal of the East-West gas/oil line, Eastern Canada could be exporting gas and oil to the Caribbean, rebalancing present trade deficits. Jamaica also has some hydroelectric generating facili-

ties and wishes to increase its capacity without harming tourist waterfall attractions.

An example of a manufacturing opportunity for Canada which would benefit Jamaica as well is the Light Emitting Diode (LED); a self-contained street lighting initiative by the Jamaican Government with units made in Canada. Jamaica alone will ultimately require tens of thousands. This fairly large-scale manufacturing provides an opportunity for both countries. The Canadian manufacturers could establish a Jamaican sub-assembly company to assemble components with local labour at dramatically less cost than importing the entire unit preassembled. In partnership with the Jamaican company they could export throughout the region at very competitive rates. Canada benefits from having the head office, the high-tech, the design and engineering here. Jamaica benefits from the jobs and high-tech work experience which could lead to other tech enterprises, as well, having a well-designed, well-manufactured item of high regional need for export revenue.

These are only examples of possible Canada-Jamaica and regional engagement. Mr. Goldring observed that even though the Denbigh Fair predominantly agriculture-focused, including bio-genetics, it did in-



Mr. Goldring asked for and had arranged by Mr. Rick McElrea a full, in-depth briefing and visit of Kingston's transshipment container port and domestic port.

clude many high-tech imports from Asia and the United States. Canadian business was distinctively under represented. Both Senator Meredith and Mr. Goldring agreed that perhaps there should be a Canada trade mission organized to Jamaica.

The trade promotion should comprise not just those already doing business in Jamaica but those that might want a presence in the Caribbean Rim region - a marketplace of 100 million people.

There are companies that produce world-class products that could be assembled or processed in Jamaica which could be exported through the Caribbean with the Canadian -Jamaican partnership label of quality. There should be companies that want to part-

ner with Jamaican companies so that both gain profit and move forward together for mutual prosperity.

Accompanying Mr. Goldring on all government and business meetings was Rick McElrea, Canada's Senior Trade Commissioner in Jamaica. This proved to be very valuable as it denoted the interest of the High Commission on the visit but also was great to have Canada's perspective annunciated. Mr. McElrea must be commended for his excellent and sensitive role to all parties engaged in this visit and all consultations.

**UPDATE:** The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service in Kingston, Jamaica, assists Canadian firms looking for market opportunities not only in Jamaica but also in the Bahamas, Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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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.*

**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Q1:** Do you think Canada should be making efforts to increase trade with Jamaica and other Caribbean countries?

Yes

No

**Q2:** Do you think Canada should organize a special trade mission for Canadian companies interested in investing in Jamaica?

Yes

No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

# THE TURKS AND CAICOS

**MAY 26  
VISIT TO  
OTTAWA**



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Much discussion has been held over the years about Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands developing closer economic and political ties Member of Parliament Peter Goldring has been promoting such dialogue for a number of years and welcomes the upcoming **visit to Ottawa May 26**.

In June 2013 Mr. Goldring was invited to meet with Turks & Caicos Premier Rufus Ewing when Premier Ewing was visiting Toronto with government and business leaders. The Premier was very receptive to the idea of closer trade and economic ties with Canada, something Mr. Goldring has been promoting for more than a decade.

Closer partnering with the islands could mean establishing a free trade association, or perhaps establishing some sort of customs union.

The benefits of closer economic ties have been established. In 2010 Mr. Brant Hasanen and the Kamloops, British Columbia, Chamber of Commerce did a preliminary study examining the economic impact of closer integration between The

Turks and Caicos Islands and Canada. The report estimates a \$9 billion benefit to Canada. This encouraging conclusion is certainly worthy of follow-up.

In June 2009 Liberal Member of Parliament Massimo Pacetti, after consulting with Conservative Member of Parliament Peter Goldring, and because of renewed interest in the subject, introduced this motion in the House of Commons, which Mr. Goldring seconded:



**Premier Rufus Ewing with Peter and Lorraine Goldring in Toronto in 2013. Dr. Ewing recognized that Peter has long been advocating closer ties with the Islands.**

*That, in the opinion of the House, the government should immediately mandate two (2) Members of Parliament, one (1) from the governing party and one (1) from the official opposition party, to begin discussions with representatives of The Turks and Caicos Islands in establishing a framework in order to determine areas of enhanced partnership in trade, social*

*and economic development.*

Also in 2009, at the request of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Goldring facilitated an



informal meeting between then Turks and Caicos Islands Premier Galmo Williams and Prime Minister Stephen Harper while the Prime Minister was attending the April Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Goldring has long had considerable interest in the Caribbean, The Turks and Caicos Islands and their relationship to Canada, even before being appointed as the Opposition Foreign Affairs Critic (Caribbean Region) during the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Session in 2004. He has travelled extensively in the Caribbean region and visited some 20 countries.

In government he has had an advocacy role with respect to the Caribbean region and is serving on the Parliamentary Friendship Groups' for Canada-Cuba as Director and Canada-Caribbean as Vice-Chair, and has served on the Canada-Mexico and Canada-Haiti Committees. He has also been a member of the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee in the House of Commons and has monitored elections in the region, specifically in Haiti and Guyana.

In the summer of 2005, using his own funds, he travelled to Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica to see first-hand the effects of Hurricane Ivan and reported to Parliament.

He also took the time to meet with political and business people about the evolving geopolitical and economic climate of the region. He first travelled to The Turks and Caicos Islands in 2003, again using his own funds, to gauge public opinion of the islands' prospects, touring both Provo Island and Grand Turks Island.

Discussion of a partnership union or formalized association between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands began in 1917 with Prime Minister Robert Borden, was noted and then shelved, as was a similar initiative made by Britain that Canada help with the governance of all British colonies in the Caribbean (then called the British West Indies).

In more recent years, movement for a Canada-Turks and Caicos partnership or union was encouraged in 1974 by then New Democratic Party Member of Parliament, Max Saltsman. The Trudeau Government of the day, however, rejected Mr. Saltsman's proposal.

In April 1986 The Turks and Caicos Islands once again approached the Canadian government. A five member Progressive Conservative Committee formed by Winnipeg MP Dan McKenzie and chaired by Ottawa



**Peter visited with Rosemarie Wilson, the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board representative in Canada at the soon to be opened Turks and Caicos Islands tourism office in Toronto.**



West MP, David Daubney, established plans to hold hearings on the issue before reporting to the party caucus. The hearings were to determine whether to hold further exploratory talks with the islanders and representatives of the semi-autonomous British Colony. In the end, Canada opted not to pursue union with The Turks and Caicos Islands.

In late 2003 Mr. Goldring joined with businessmen Brad Sigouin and Richard Pearson of "A Place In The Sun" in once again promoting the association concept. He continues to believe that a Canada-Turks and Caicos Islands economic partnership or union represents an historic opportunity for Canada to have a new and positive influence in the greater Caribbean region. Such a partnership would better formalize the "special

relationship" Canada already enjoys in the region and provide many mutually beneficial opportunities for both sides - going far beyond merely a tropical vacation destination for Canadians. The Turks and Caicos Islands, specifically South Caicos Island, has the possible potential to be an important principal deep-water trans-shipment centre for Canadian trade coming both to and from the entire Caribbean Rim region and beyond.

With a Canadian platform of trade tranship-

ment from a deep-water port on Turks and Caicos' South Caicos Island, Canada from its Atlantic ports would benefit greatly by a partnership and engagement. The Turks and Caicos Islands are strategically located at the doorway to the Caribbean and beyond. As a consistently stable British territorial country it has the inherent stability required of a platform partnership location. It is about 200 kilometres off shore from Haiti and a somewhat similar distance from Cuba.



**Ralph Higgs, Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board, has met with Peter Goldring several times to discuss enhanced political and economic relationships.**

development in the region, the platform would also serve as a regional base for democratic development efforts as well as disaster assistance. The hurricane that devastated Grenada, Haiti and other islands underscores the need for regionally locating disaster assistance. From a very understandable, practical reason, if Canada is much more engaged economically and politically in the region it has greater capacity for emergency relief as well.

Exciting possibilities for both Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands exist with a greatly increased cooperative association. Overall, a closer association with the Caribbean, specifically with The Turks and Caicos Islands, could only enhance trade, cultural, humanitarian and security interests for all concerned.

one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal, in anticipation of an increased interaction with our trade partners.

With this in mind, plan ahead to meet the Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands at a reception on Parliament Hill on May 26 from noon to 2 p.m. in Room 216-N Centre Block hosted by House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer..

Canada's future in the Caribbean should be

**Update:** The Premier of the Turks & Caicos Islands, the Honourable Dr. Rufus Ewing, is leading a delegation of officials on a tourism and trade mission, with a special reception to be held for them **on Parliament Hill on May 26** hosted by House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer and then to Toronto.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

Q1: Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and products in the Caribbean and South America?

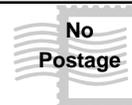
Yes       No

Q2: Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should explore improved political, economic, and humanitarian regional cooperation?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



Much discussion has been held over the years about Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands developing closer economic and political ties Member of Parliament Peter Goldring has been promoting such dialogue for a number of years and explains why consideration is still currently appropriate.

In 2013 Mr. Goldring was invited to meet with Turks & Caicos Premier Rufus Ewing when Premier Ewing was visiting Toronto. The Premier was very receptive to the idea of closer trade and economic ties with Canada, something Mr. Goldring has been promoting for more than a decade. Mr. Goldring assured the Premier that while in the past he has pushed for some form of political association with the Islands, that his primary focus is a greater economic engagement with the Islands..

He does advocate an economic partnership between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands, but most certainly not their “annexation,” as this term is associated with colonialism and implies the

taking control of territory without the peoples’ consent. Partnering with the islands could mean establishing a free trade association, or perhaps establishing some sort of customs union. Mr. Goldring does not advocate political union unless there is a clear and determined majority will by both countries’ citizens for such an association.

The benefits of closer economic ties have been established. In 2010 Mr. Brant Hasanen and the Kamloops, British Columbia, Chamber of Commerce did a preliminary study examining the economic impact of closer integration between The Turks and Caicos Islands and Canada. The report estimates a \$9 billion benefit to Canada. This encouraging conclusion is certainly worthy of follow-up.

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**Premier Rufus Ewing with Peter and Lorraine Goldring in Toronto in 2013. Dr. Ewing recognized that Peter has long been advocating closer ties with the Islands.**



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*That, in the opinion of the House, the government should immediately mandate two (2) Members of Parliament, one (1) from the governing party and one (1) from the official opposition party, to begin discussions with representatives of The Turks and Caicos Islands in establishing a framework in order to determine areas of enhanced partnership in trade, social and economic development.*

Also in 2009, at the request of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Goldring facilitated an informal meeting between then Turks and Caicos Islands Premier Galmo Williams and Prime Minister Stephen Harper while the Prime Minister was attending the April Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago.



**There are many business and development opportunities on the islands that would be facilitated by a closer relationship.**

Mr. Goldring has long had considerable interest in the Caribbean, The Turks and Caicos Islands and their relationship to Canada, even before being appointed as the Opposition Foreign Affairs Critic (Caribbean Region) during the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Session in 2004. He has travelled extensively in the Caribbean region and visited some 20 countries.

In government he has had an advocacy role with respect to the Caribbean region and is

serving on the Parliamentary Friendship Groups' for Canada-Cuba as Director and Canada-Caribbean as Vice-Chair, and has served on the Canada-Mexico and Canada-Haiti Committees. He has also been a member of the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee in the House of Commons and has monitored elections in the region, specifically in Haiti and Guyana.

In the summer of 2005, using his own funds, he travelled to Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica to see first-hand the effects of Hurricane Ivan and reported to Parliament. He also took the time to meet with political and business people about the evolving geopolitical and economic climate of the region. He first travelled to The Turks and Caicos Islands in 2003, again using his own funds, to gauge

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In more recent years, movement for a Canada-Turks and Caicos partnership or union was encouraged in 1974 by then New Democratic Party Member of Parliament, Max Saltsman. The Trudeau Government of the day, however, rejected Mr. Saltsman's proposal.

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In late 2003 Mr. Goldring joined with businessmen Brad Sigouin and Richard Pearson of "A Place In The Sun" in once again promoting the association concept. He continues to believe that a Canada-Turks and Caicos Islands economic partnership or union

represents an historic opportunity for Canada to have a new and positive influence in the greater Caribbean region. Such a partnership would better formalize the "special relationship" Canada already enjoys in the region and provide many mutually beneficial opportunities for both sides - going far beyond Canadians merely having access to a tropical vacation destination. The Turks and Caicos Islands, specifically South Caicos

Island, has the possible potential to be the principal deep-water trans-shipment centre for Canadian trade coming both to and from the entire Caribbean Rim region and beyond.

With a Canadian platform of trade transshipment from a deep-water port on Turks and Caicos' South Caicos Island, Canada from its Atlantic ports would benefit greatly by a partnership and en-

gagement. The Turks and Caicos Islands are strategically located at the doorway to the Caribbean and beyond. As a consistently stable British territorial country it has the inherent stability required of a platform partnership location. It is about 200 kilometres off shore from Haiti and a somewhat similar distance from Cuba.

Canada has in the past staged its troop deployment to Haiti from The Turks and Cai-



**A deep-water transshipment port in the Turks & Caicos Islands would be beneficial to Canadian companies doing business in the Caribbean.**

cos Islands. One could only imagine the great opportunities to directly engage the emerging Cuban economic interests from such a regional base of operations. In addition to much greater trade and economic development in the region, the platform would also serve as a regional base for democratic development efforts as well as disaster assistance. The hurricane that devastated Grenada, Haiti and other islands underscores the need for regionally locating disaster assistance. From a very understandable, practical reason, if Canada is much more engaged economically and politically in the region it has greater capacity for emergency relief as well.

Exciting possibilities for both Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands exist with a greatly increased cooperative association. Overall, a closer association with the Caribbean, specifically with The Turks and Caicos Islands, could only enhance trade, cultural, humanitarian and security interests for all concerned.

Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal, in anticipation of an increased interaction with our trade partners.

**Update:** The Premier of the Turks & Caicos Islands, the Honourable Dr. Rufus Ewing, is leading a delegation of tourism officials on a tour of North America, with a special reception on Parliament Hill on May 26..

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

Q1: Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and products in the Caribbean and South America?

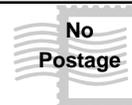
Yes       No

Q2: Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should explore improved political, economic, and humanitarian regional cooperation?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



Peter Goldring has long advocated closer economic, social and political ties with The Turks and Caicos Islands. He was privileged to help facilitate a visit of Premier Rufus Ewing and his delegation of ministers and assistants to Parliament Hill at the end of May 2014. Since Mr. Goldring was on a special mission to Ukraine at that time, his wife Lorraine represented him at the event.

Premier Ewing made Ottawa the first stop of a six city tour of North America that also included Toronto, Chicago, New York, Dallas and Miami. In most cities the goal was to promote the Islands as a tourist destination, but in Ottawa the focus was also on the relationship between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands, both historically and looking to the future.

As the Premier entered Centre Block on Parliament Hill he was met and greeted by Lorraine Goldring and a protocol officer, who escorted him to his first meeting of the day,

with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, where the discussion was to be about twinning various Canadian provinces with Caribbean nations. The Premier expressed interest in the concept.

Immediately following that meeting, Premier Ewing and his delegation met with the all-party Parliamentary Tourism Caucus to discuss the Islands as a tourist destination. In recent years an increasing number of Canadians have chosen to vacation in the Turks and Caicos Islands and there has been considerable Canadian investment in the hospitality industry there. Tourism Minister Maxime Bernier attended the caucus meeting and showed a keen interest. The Premier said he was “happy and pleased to attend” the caucus.

While the rest of the delegation toured Centre Block to get a sense of the historic significance of the building, Premier Ewing had a private meeting with Prime Minister



**Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Rufus Ewing, speaks with Mrs. Lorraine Goldring, wife of Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament about their friendship visit seeking closer association.**



Stephen Harper. They discussed closer ties between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands.

Premier Ewing was then the guest of honour at a special reception hosted by Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Noel Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate. It was an opportunity for Members of Parliament and Senators to meet the Premier and his delegation in an informal setting, to discover more about The Turks and Caicos Islands and to sample some island delicacies such as conk (the annual conk festival is a major event in the Islands). Politicians from all parties attended the reception and took the opportunity to have their photos taken with the Premier.

Speaking to those gathered for the reception, Premier Ewing said he is very familiar with Canada, having spent time here doing medical training, so much time, he said, that “I almost feel like I am a Canadian”

The Turks and Caicos Islands is emerging from setbacks in recent years, he said, that saw the United Kingdom step in and resume control of the territory’s government after allegations of corruption against a previous premier. That has now been put behind

them, he said, and a new government following recent elections has “readied our nation for progress.”

Premier Ewing noted that there are already strong ties between Canada and the Islands, with Canadian banks, public institutions and the hospitality industry making major contributions to the economy. With a relationship already established, he said government of The Turks and Caicos Islands is interested in exploring issues of opportunity and mutual benefit.

Among the key areas from his perspective, he said, was to place a high priority on education and training for his citizens. He suggested his country has a need for vocational, teacher, hospitality and police training. “We need to

look at ways to ensure that happens.”

When it comes to trade, The Turks and Caicos Islands, as a small territory, relies heavily on imported goods. He noted that Canada produces many products, while the Islands import 90% of what they use, suggesting he wishes for an increase in trade with Canada. Premier Ewing also pointed out that The Turks and Caicos Islands TC can be seen as the gateway to Caribbean,



**Premier Rufus Ewing, at the Speaker’s reception, speaks to Canadian Members of Parliament and Senators about future relations between his country and Canada.**



“a stepping stone” for those wishing to export their products to the region.

Following the Speakers’ reception Mr. Goldring had arranged for Premier Ewing to be available to the press in the foyer of the House of Commons. The assembled media were very interested in what the Premier had to say, but were not inclined to focus their questions on tourism, the primary reason for the Premier’s visit. They wanted to know more about the possibility of closer relations between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands, especially the possibility of some sort of future political union.

Premier Ewing tried to keep the focus on the present, noting that he and Prime Minister Stephen Harper had discussed areas of mutual interest in their meeting, but did not offer specifics. He said he had asked about the possibility of setting up a working group to look at ways Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands can be greatly engaged economically and socially to cooperate for mutual benefit.

The Premier said there are great opportunities in the Islands for sustainable economic growth and development, and that the economic relationship between the two countries goes back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century when salt from The Turks and Caicos Islands was used to

preserve Nova Scotia fishermen’s catch for shipping to the United Kingdom. He sees Canada and the Islands as “working for a more formal relationship” (although he didn’t define what that would look like) and said he wanted to take “a strategic approach to areas of mutual benefit” saying he would like to see “something a little more formal than we have now.”



**Mrs. Goldring presents Premier Ewing of the Turks and Caicos Islands with a painting of Parliament as a memento of his visit to Ottawa.**

When pressed by the media about a political union between Canada and The Turks and Caicos Islands, Premier Ewing suggested that those who want such ties see the relationship as a courtship, but in reality at this point the relationship might be considered more like flirting. When asked if there was anything Canadian that specifically appealed to him, he said “I’ve never skied in

my life, so I would love to try that.” The people of The Turks and Caicos Islands have no position on a possible union with Canada he added, saying they haven’t even been asked about it.

Following the press conference, as Speaker Scheer’s guest, Premier Ewing attended the daily Question Period in the House of Commons, and was formally introduced at the conclusion of that event.

The last scheduled event for Premier Ewing was a meeting with the executive of the Canada-CARICOM Parliamentary Friendship Group (of which Mr. Goldring is co-chair) to discuss regional issues, including development and tourism opportunities in the Islands, and the need for education and skills training for the Islands' workforce.

Premier Ewing left Ottawa in the late afternoon, heading to Toronto for a reception there in the evening.



**Update:** Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal.

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**Your Opinion Matters...**

Do you believe that Canada can do more to encourage the trade of Canadian made goods and products in the Caribbean and South America?

Yes       No

Do you think that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should explore improved political, economic, and humanitarian cooperation?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



After a more than a decade, Peter Goldring’s work on the Turks and Caicos file has reached the United Nations. In May 2015, Daniel Malcolm, Chairman of Constitutional Commission for Turks and Caicos, presented Mr. Goldring’s proposal to justify stronger association between Turks and Caicos and Canada.

On May 21, 2015, at the United Nations Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization in Nicaragua, Daniel Malcolm, former Member of Parliament and Chairman of Constitutional Commission for the Turks and Caicos Islands, announced to the world that closer association with Canada is the best option for the future of his home, and that now is the time to make this a reality. Mr. Malcolm unquestionably supports Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, who has spent years working towards strengthening links and common association with the islands. Indeed, in his presentation, Mr. Malcolm acknowledged that his

“conclusion is buttressed” by Mr. Goldring’s 2009 publication—republished again in 2011, 2014, and 2015—*Canada’s Atlantic Trade with the Caribbean: A Platform Approach*.

Mr. Malcolm mentioned how challenges like global warming, terrorism, health, and natural disasters disproportionately affect small states. Mr. Goldring also recognizes the impact of these circumstances, particularly after observing first-hand the effects of Hurricane Ivan in the summer of 2005, using his own funds. Both men believe that closer association between Canada and Turks and Caicos will enhance the trade, cultural, humanitarian, and security interests for all concerned. A “symbolic relationship”, wherein “both countries [contribute] meaningfully to each other’s economies and well-being” will help the people of Turks and Caicos to overcome their fear of venturing into the unknown and reach their full developmental potential.



**Daniel Malcolm, Chairman of Constitutional Commission for the Turks and Caicos Islands, used Mr. Goldring’s report to justify stronger association between Turks and Caicos and Canada to the United Nations**



The special relationship that Canada already enjoys makes it the perfect partner for a relationship of mutual growth with the Turks and Caicos. This relationship will be more than a tropical vacation destination for Canadians. In 2010, Mr. Brant Hasanen and the Kamloops, British Columbia Chamber of Commerce conducted a preliminary study that examined the economic benefit of closer association, and estimated that it would yield a \$9-billion dollar benefit.

Largely reiterating Mr. Goldring's findings, Mr. Malcolm enumerates some of these benefits in his presentation to the United Nations. A reliable deep-water port for transshipping and distribution of Canadian exports in the Turks and Caicos, for example, would create a strategic trade connection to the Caribbean and beyond. Aside from creating a physical market presence in the region, closer association would give Canada a location from which to launch humanitarian and economic initiatives.

However, the pursuit of closer association is not just about Canadian interests; it is equally focused on the long-term development of Turks and Caicos. Mr. Goldring has personally observed the need for Canadian emer-

gency disaster assistance. Through closer association, both Turks and Caicos and neighbouring countries would have the direct access to Canadian aid in times of emergencies.

Security is important for protecting the possibility of successful long-term development in Turks and Caicos and the other non-self-governing territories, but economic stimulus

will make it a realization. Mr. Malcolm, again with Mr. Goldring, argues that closer association will bring increased potential for post-secondary education and vocational training. These new professionals will be the heart of the budding Turks and Caicos economy, and will be critical in the development of infrastructure linking the archipelago. The potential

for improved medical facilities, education, and transportation will create a promising market for investors, driving economic diversification. Diversification will protect Turks and Caicos from seasonal fluctuations of tourism and create the wealth needed for fruitful development. In short, closer association between Canada and Turks and Caicos would create exciting opportunities for both parties and the entire region.



**Former-Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Jim Poston, and Canadian Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, conclude a very cordial meeting.**



This is not, however, a particularly new idea. The discussion about the prospects of forming closer relations with Turks and Caicos has been entertained for nearly a century, albeit for differing reasons. This discussion about formalized association began, in 1917, with Prime Minister Robert Borden. It was duly noted and shelved, along with a similar proposal made by Britain that Canada govern British colonies in the Caribbean (or British West Indies).

In more recent years, movement for a partnership between Canada and Turks and Caicos was encouraged in 1974 by then-New Democratic Party MP, Max Saltsman. The Trudeau government, however, rejected Mr. Saltsman's proposal. In April 1986, Turks and Caicos once again approached the Canadian government. A five-member, Progressive Conservative Committee—formed by Winnipeg MP Dan McKenzie and chaired by Ottawa West MP David Daubney—established plans to hold hearings on the issue before reporting to caucus. The hearings sought to determine whether to explore a partnership and to conduct further talks with representatives of the semi-autonomous British colony. Eventually, Canada opted not to pursue a union or partnership with Turks and Caicos.

Mr. Malcolm says that the fear which holds the people of Turks and Caicos and other non-self-governing territories from enacting a solution is “the bane of progress, the arch-enemy of civilized society”, yet it is justified. Consider the threats posed by a fluctuating global economy, global warming and health crises, terrorism, financial meltdowns, and local problems like illegal immigration, crime, population growth, resource depletion, health, education, and infrastructure, and it becomes obvious why. In spite of these fears, Mr. Malcolm's proposal states that closer association with Canada shows the most promise, not only because of prevailing historic, cultural, social, and economic ties, but for its tremendous potential for both countries.



**Premier Rufus Ewing with Peter and Lorraine Goldring in Toronto in 2013. Dr. Ewing recognized that Peter has long been advocating closer ties with the Islands.**

Mr. Goldring says, "The people of Turks and Caicos must choose this path collectively." Today, both the Islanders and Canadians are realizing that closer association is our best option for mutual growth. Once Turks and Caicos proclaims the mandate of its people, the Canadians will rise to the occasion and help a nation with whom they have such close ties.

To further these talks, Mr. Goldring will be met with a 'Friendship Mission' in Ottawa, between May 26 and May 29, headed by

the Honourable Don Hugh Gardiner, Minister for Border Control and Labour. This delegation sought stronger economic and political relations with Canada.

Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal, in anticipation of an increased interaction with our trade partners. Mr. Daniel Malcolm, Chairman of the Turks and Caicos Constitutional Commission, as noted in his presentation to the United Nations, believes that a

closer association between the Islands and Canada is in our mutual best interest. "Such an association has been a subject of discussion and consideration on and off for the preceding forty plus years. It is time for consummation." When the people of Turks and Caicos vanquish their fear and determine their future, Canada needs to stand ready to honour its commitment to humanitarianism and progress.

**Update:** Canada's future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal.

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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.*

**Your Opinion Matters...**

Do you agree that Canada should encourage stronger economic, political, and social relations with Turks and Caicos?

Yes       No

Do you agree Canada has a place in the Caribbean Rim of countries, such as Haiti, post-Castro Cuba, and Turks and Caicos?

Yes       No

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Peter Goldring**  
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**The Caribbean Regional Seminar On Decolonization  
Managua, Nicaragua  
19<sup>th</sup>. – 21<sup>st</sup>. May 2015**

**Presentation  
Of  
Daniel Malcolm**

**Title: “2020 and Beyond – Arresting the Decolonization Dilemma”**

**Name:** Daniel M. Malcolm,  
Chairman of Constitutional Committee,  
Turks & Caicos Islands.

**Registered Expert – United Nations**

**Short Biography:**

**Place of Birth**

- Turks & Caicos Islands.

**Education**

- Excelsior College, Kingston, Jamaica.

**Business Career**

- Section Head – Bank of London & Montreal, Nassau, Bahamas.

**Political & Diplomatic Career**

- Member of Parliament, Turks & Caicos Islands.
- Advisor to Governor, Turks & Caicos Islands.
- Chairman of Constitutional Commission, Turks & Caicos Islands.
- UN Expert on Decolonization.



## **Executive Summary**

The lack of progress in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-determination can be attributed primarily to one common denominator, an all-pervasive fear of venturing into the unknown. This common denominator permeates the very mindset of colonized people, and has done so for centuries.

When one considers the adverse effects of globalization on small states – increasing problems of illegal immigration, climate change, resource depletion, and the global treat of terrorism, this fear is not completely unfounded.

In this presentation I will outline various options that are worthy of examination as viable routes to Self-Determination for the NSGT's. These are –

- (i) Full Internal Self Government
- (ii) Full Independence
- (iii) Integration
- (iv) Closer Association

I will elaborate on the option of 'Closer Association' as the preferred pathway to self determination in the context of the Turks and Caicos Islands at this time.

The relevant recommendations that I am proposing herein is a review of the apparatus of a Referendum as a pathway to Self-Determination – establishment of the office of a United Nations High Commissioner to the NSGT's and finally, an aggressive dissemination of information by the UN in the NSGT's inclusive of the distribution of pamphlets, flyers, and by way of workshops – to educate people about the benefits of striving towards the noble ideal of Self-Determination. A recommendation for the Turks and Caicos islands concludes this presentation.



## **Acknowledgements**

It would be remiss of me not only to simultaneously offer thanks to the Special Committee on Decolonization (The Committee of 24) for extending this invitation to participate in this august Seminar, but also to say how pleased I am to partake of the wonderful charm and hospitality extended to us by our hosts the Government and people of the great country of Nicaragua.



## Introduction

Five years from hence, the world is destined to celebrate the platinum anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. It will be a celebration of achievement for freedom loving people all around the globe; but in the world of the Dependent Territories, there will be bitter/sweet memories. Sweet, because we would have arrived at a time and place when hopes of complete freedom from the colonial yoke still reign supreme; and bitter, because seemingly, after memories of the slave trade, the Holocaust, Apartheid, two World Wars continue to recede into our conscious recollection of past history, colonialism remains ever present with us.

## Presentation Paper

### What really is the problem?

As recent as 2012, some three years ago, I made the following comment during a meeting of the United Nations Fourth Committee in New York City:

[Quote]

“ The populations of the dependent Territories continue to subsist on the crumbs of Freedom that fall from our masters’ table.” [Unquote]

This, then in a nutshell is the Decolonization Dilemma: Do we continue to maintain and follow the status quo, when it comes to revisiting and possibly revising the ideas and programmes needed to accelerate and advance the cause of Freedom in the Dependent Territories, or do we devise and adopt a more aggressive, proactive approach – a Final Solution – as it were, to this age old monster?

It is a cause worthy of our total time and energy. When we think of the histories of those men who fought for and won the right to govern their own countries – the Simon Bolivares of South America, the George Washingtons of the United States, the Ghandis of India, or the Nkrumahs and Kenyattas of Africa, the Bustamantes and Manleys of Jamaica, Williamses of Trinidad, the Pindlings of the Bahamas –

Or when we consider the sacrifices endured by the world’s illustrious freedom fighters - the Nelson Mandelas, Martin Luther Kings, Fidel Castros, and yes, Daniel Ortigas – one cannot help but realize that the cause for which these men fought , suffering unspeakable hardships, must be kept alive and well, until final victory is achieved in the quest for Decolonization.

Surprisingly enough, one of the main enemies against whom these men had to fight, and against whom they had to persevere and conquer, exist to this very day. This enemy knows no boundaries, has no respect for ethnic origins, no regard for gender, race, color or creed. Whether high or low, rich or poor, it affects us all.

This implacable enemy goes by the name of FEAR. It is the common denominator which not only links but binds all people under the grip of Colonialism. And it affects not only what is known, but almost of equal intensity – what is unknown.

It breeds in us a 'herd' instinct, oblivious to reason, common sense and even absolute truth. It is the bane of progress, the arch-enemy of civilized society. In every single Dependent Territory, it is a thriving omnipresent organism. Fear, however, has a most resourceful and powerful arch-enemy. That arch-enemy is education. And once fear succumbs to education and is vanquished, that victory is not only complete, but it is final and irreversible.

### Is This Fear Real Or Imagined?

Taken together, international, regional and local problems do indeed pose significant challenges (even for Independent countries). Add the up and downs of the global economy, global warming and health crises, terrorism, financial meltdowns, and consider local problems such as, illegal immigration, crime, natural disasters (hurricanes etc.), natural resource depletion, health, education and the infrastructure, population growth and control, then one begins to appreciate what drives the emotion of the average person – be he dependent or independent.

The world however, is beginning to respond in two ways to these phenomena:

- (i) There is an increasing movement to develop a sense of interdependence.
- (ii) All states and mini states are consequently seeking to forge alliances, groupings, pairings etc., to better develop to their fullest potential, under the most optimum of conditions.

### Conclusions and Suggestions

The UN seemingly keeping in pace with the times, have reiterated and underscored their ideal for Self Determination in the NSGT's. These continue to be by –

- (1) Full Internal Self-Government
- (2) Full Independence
- (3) Integration
- (4) Closer Association

Certain of the Administering Powers have reduced these options from four to two, recognizing only – Full Internal Self-Government to be followed within an eighteen to twenty four month period by Full Independence.

These two options by and of themselves run counter to UN mandates, and we wish to say now that any and all participating UN members (particularly Charter Members) should be expected to respect and observe U.N. mandates, particularly when those mandates are designed to develop and

encourage the orderly and proper development of the more vulnerable members of the global community.

Administering Powers, be they signatories or not, to the UN Charter, should not have to be reminded that their actions are not consistent with the Aims, Objectives and Mandates of this organization, and could be regarded as being inimical to the proper growth and development of the very entities they have pledged to support.

The second point that I would wish to emphasize is that even at the risk of being accused of interfering in the affairs of a Member State, the time has certainly come when the U.N. as a responsible body should be more proactive in monitoring the situation in the Dependent Territories. The welfare of the peoples of the Territories is far more important than any pronouncement by any of the Administering Authorities that their oversight and overview are being questioned.

Towards this end, and thirdly, the U.N. would do well to look to upgrading and further empowering the Office of the Decolonization Unit from its current status to one of having appointed as its head – a High Commissioner to the Dependent Territories. The function of the Commissioner would be more or less on a footing of equal importance with that of the current High Commissioner for Refugees (U.N. H C R).

Such a Commissioner would be tasked with the responsibility of (but not limited to) promoting in the Dependent Territories –

- (a) The dissemination of information regarding UN activities, particularly as they relate to health, education, welfare, human and civil rights etc. Such programmes should be geared to impact on schools, government and non-governmental bodies and organizations, civic and professional groups, religious bodies and service organizations etc. The intention being that this activity would have a trickledown effect to the ‘man in the street’.
- (b) This could be achieved by –
  - (i) Pamphlets
  - (ii) Flyers
  - (iii) Workshops

And could be geared at creating a positive mindset of self determination, its various forms, and its potential benefits.

Finally, the U.N. needs to revisit the question of Referenda as the only means of ascertaining the wishes of the people with respect to the move towards Independence.

From a practical and historical perspective it is a fact that throughout the course of recorded history, the decision to move to such a status has never been decided by Referendum. A Referendum whilst it is laudable and a most transparent, and a representative method of arriving at the position, has no

legal or constitutional precedent to wholly support it, should not stand in isolation, and should be accompanied by a second alternative. Such an alternative could be crafted thus:

[Quote]

“The U.N. recognizes and respects the rights of all citizens to exercise their option to determine in open, free and fair Referenda, whether or not their country should move to a status of Full Independence.

However, where the situation exist that the question of Full Independence has been thoroughly and sufficiently immersed in an Election campaign, and the outcome of such a campaign is representative of, and demonstrates the expressed wishes of the electorate, then the authorities should accept such an outcome as being a mandate from the people”. [Unquote]

Finally, in concluding this narrative, the recommendation to the U. N.. our country and our people is that – of the four options previously enunciated, after careful consultation with as many stakeholders in the country as possible, it is the belief that as an immediate consideration in the Self-Determination Debate, we should begin to examine the question of a possible ‘closer association’ as the next move legally and constitutionally for the Turks & Caicos Islands. Such a move could be either the subject of a Referendum (if absolutely necessary) or alternatively the subject of an Election Campaign, (or both) and could be affected during the upcoming General Election scheduled to take place by the end of November of 2016.

It is the belief that while the territory would be expected to seek a ‘Closer Association’ with the United Kingdom (in normal circumstances) nevertheless, at this point in time such a move is less desirable than one which would align us with a Regional or Hemispheric entity, and one in which a true symbiotic relationship could be developed, with both countries contributing meaningfully to each other’s economies and well-being.

The recommendation as of this writing, is that of the four countries with the most meaningful potential and greatest eligibility, these are –

- (1) The United Kingdom as the current Administering Territory
- (2) The United States
- (3) The Bahamas
- (4) Canada

With, as previously indicated, the most optimum choice being of Regional or Hemispheric importance.

My belief is that given all the information and facts currently at hand, the country of Canada would be the first choice, not only because of historic, cultural, social and economic ties currently prevailing, but also because of the tremendous potential that such a “Closer Association” relationship brings to the table for both countries. This conclusion is buttressed by a Publication

authored by a Canadian M.P., Peter Goldring, published in 2009, titled 'Canada's Atlantic Trade With The Caribbean: A Platform Approach'.

The benefits that could accrue from such an association include, but are not limited to for Canada:-

- (i) A Canadian location in the Region for trade, economic development and humanitarian assistance initiatives
- (ii) A reliable deep water port in the Caribbean for transshipping and distribution of Canadian exports
- (iii) A vacation paradise for Canadian tourists
- (iv) A partner with the Turks and Caicos Islands, an Associate Member of CARICOM
- (v) A physical market presence in the Region
- (vi) A Canadian platform for DART and Security deployment
- (vii) Ability to better compete with the world much more directly in the Caribbean, Central and South America
- (viii) Ability to access training facilities year round for Canadian athletes in virtually all sporting activities.

The benefits that would accrue from such an Association for the TCI:-

- (i) Possible help in the creation of a deep water port
- (ii) Access to Canadian heavy deep water shipped goods
- (iii) Direct access to Canadian emergency aid, if needed (both TCI and neighboring countries)
- (iv) Diversified economy by non-tourism related employment year round
- (v) Possible help with causeway road construction – linking the TCI archipelago.
- (vi) Lower cost of goods and services made possible by the creation of a free zone area as an off shoot of the proposed deep water port
- (vii) Increased direct air travel to Canada (with increased tourist airlift)
- (viii) Potential for improved hospital and medical facilities
- (ix) Increased potential for post-secondary education (and vocational training)
- (x) Increased security for fisheries, immigration and the war on illicit drug trafficking (External Defense Posture)
- (xi) Development of Aquaculture and other industries
- (xii) Development of Sports Tourism.

It should be noted that our ideal is specifically a "Closer Association" and not an Eleventh Province, re-colonization, or any attempt to institute neocolonialism.

Such an association has been a subject of discussion and consideration on and off for the preceding forty plus years. It is time for consummation. This

could be best achieved ideally by the utilization of a trilateral agreement, the principals of which would be – The Governments of the TCI, UK and Canada.

A refined constitution embodying the legal, economic and financial arrangements would have to be enough cover for all three entities. While this might appear to be difficult to achieve, let us rest assured and be encouraged by the notion that nothing with such potential for the greatest good will come easy. Can we accomplish this? Yes we can!!

## **References**

Goldring, Peter, (Member of Parliament: Canada). Canada's Atlantic Trade: The Caribbean: A Platform Approach. 2009



## About the Author

Peter Goldring, the Conservative Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, was born in Toronto in 1944 and served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1962 until 1966. Over the years, Peter has been an entrepreneur, business owner for 18 years, ardent advocate for Canadian unity, and, between 1997 and 2015 was a Member of Parliament. His work in Foreign Affairs includes several major reports on the Turks and Caicos, Haiti, Ghana, and Ukraine.

In 2003, Peter took on the Turks and Caicos portfolio and called for enhanced foreign trade and renewed development opportunities. His efforts were recognized by Conservative Party leader, Stephen Harper, who appointed him as Foreign Affairs Critic for the Caribbean.

He has remained active in the Caribbean region. In 2006, he represented the Government of Canada on a special Foreign Affairs Canada fact-finding and election monitoring mission to Haiti and has worked to better relations with Jamaica. He has since served as an election monitor for the Organization of American States (OAS) in Guyana and with OSCE in elections in Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Albania. In total, he has served as an election monitor 13 times.

At a 2013 meeting with Rufus Ewing, Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Peter worked to facilitate closer ties. He contributed to the planning of a highly visible and successful Turks and Caicos state visit to Ottawa in May 2014, which included Premier Ewing.

Peter's work has widely been recognized, and he has been awarded such distinctions as the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Alberta Centennial Medal, the Ukrainian Special Community Award, an award from the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, and several awards for his work for the homeless.

Peter has been married to his wife Lorraine for over 40 years. Together, they have two daughters, a son-in-law, and three granddaughters.

Below: Pictures of Peter, Lorraine, and notable others.

