

DAN VANDAL

Member of Parliament
for Saint Boniface –
Saint Vital



Hello and welcome to my first mailing as your MP!

In this newsletter, you will find information on the following:

- My new role as your MP
- Services for constituents
- Help for the middle class
- Investing in infrastructure
- Inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women & girls
- Senate Reform

I welcome your questions and comments on these issues and any other government initiative. I would also appreciate your feedback on the content you would like to see in future mailings. Looking forward to meeting you at the many great community events in our riding!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Vandal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized.

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My New Role as your MP

Since my swearing in as the MP for Saint Boniface — Saint Vital, I have been working hard to learn all of my new responsibilities and setting up my constituency office.

I will continue to advocate for better infrastructure, rail safety, clean air and clean water. What is most important for me is to consult with you and to hear your priorities and concerns, whether it be at public events or via my constituency office.

In addition to my role as MP, I also sit on the standing committees on Canadian Heritage and on Official Languages. The Canadian Heritage committee is studying the consequences of media concentration and its effects on our communities. The Official Languages committee is responsible for reviewing official languages policies and programs.

Committees play an important role in the parliamentary process as they are able to examine specific issues in greater depth than is possible in the House of Commons. The results of these studies, and any recommendations, are then

provided to the House to support the debate of a bill or to raise an issue to the government's attention.

During the election, I had the opportunity to speak with many of you, at your door, over the phone and at community events. I want that dialogue to continue, as it is important to ensuring that the work I do over the next four years reflects the priorities of Saint Boniface — Saint Vital.

I hope that you will continue to share your views with me, either by phoning my constituency office or sending me a letter or an email.

**WHAT ISSUES FACING
CANADIANS DO YOU
THINK THE
GOVERNMENT
SHOULD FOCUS ON?
LET ME KNOW AT
204.983.3183 OR
DAN.VANDAL@
PARL.GC.CA.**

Services for Constituents

While I'm in Ottawa, my constituency office staff ensures that you receive timely assistance and information. They can assist you in your dealings with federal government departments. They also ensure that I am aware of your concerns.

If you have questions about federal government programs, services or policies, my constituency staff will be able to provide you with more information.

They can also help you get case updates and clarifications with federal programs and services, such as:

- Immigration and citizenship
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Canada Pension Plan, including disability benefits
- Old Age Security
- Employment Insurance

If you have any questions or concerns about an application for a federal program or service, please contact my constituency office. My staff is dedicated to helping you navigate the system and trying to achieve a positive outcome.

My new website at www.danvandal.ca has a number of resources for teachers of all school years, providing information on how a bill becomes law, parliamentary procedures and Canadian symbols. On my website, you can also order a small amount of pins and flags for visitors or for your next trip abroad!

I will also be posting videos of my speeches in the House of Commons and the latest news on government announcements and community events.

**CONTACT US AT
204-983-3183 OR
DAN.VANDAL@
PARL.GC.CA**

Help for the Middle Class

The federal government has already actioned on one of our key election promises: helping the middle class.

In December 2015, Finance Minister Bill Morneau introduced Bill C-2, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, which will:

- reduce the second personal income tax rate (taxable income between \$45,282 up to \$90,563) from 22% to 20.5%;
- provide roughly \$3.4 billion in annual tax relief to nearly 9 million Canadians;
- represent an average tax reduction of \$330 a year for single individuals and \$540 a year for couples.

Going forward, the government will introduce proposals in Budget 2016 to create the new Canada Child Benefit (CCB)—one simpler, tax-free, and more generous benefit, to help those families who need it most. It will provide tax-free support to families and lift hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty.

Further help for the middle class will be available through the new infrastructure program, which will be announced in Budget 2016 (see my 'Investing in Infrastructure' article on the next page). There will be provisions to invest in affordable housing and affordable childcare spaces, giving lower- and middle-income families an equal chance at success.

**9 OUT OF 10 FAMILIES
WILL RECEIVE MORE
MONEY FROM THE
NEW CCB.**

The federal government has conducted the most open, transparent and engaged pre-budget consultation in Canadian history. It has allowed us to hear how best to support the middle class - and those working hard to join it - and invest in growth through strategic infrastructure investments.

Investing in Infrastructure

I have often mentioned that, as a former city councillor, I know firsthand the infrastructure challenges facing our cities and communities. I have also seen the economic and social benefits of infrastructure investments.

IT IS IMPERATIVE TO INVEST IN JOBS AND STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY.

Federal funding will double over the next ten years and will no longer be a roadblock to action. Federal funding will now be flexible to the requirements of municipalities and will focus on three main areas:

- public transit
- social infrastructure, prioritizing affordable housing, seniors facilities, early learning and childcare, cultural and recreational facilities.
- green infrastructure, where we have already begun investing in local water and wastewater facilities, climate resilient infrastructure, and clean energy.

The government is working closely with the provinces and territories to stimulate the economy through allocating the existing \$10B from the New Building Canada Fund as soon as possible. Budget 2016 will provide more details on the new infrastructure fund.

In January, I was pleased to attend the joint announcement by the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg on the creation of the Rail Relocation Task Force. Under the leadership of its Chair, Jean Charest, the task force will study the feasibility and impacts, both economic and social, of relocating the city's rail yards.

I have been a long-time advocate of rail safety and I believe that rail relocation needs to be fully studied for our city. I look forward to reading the task force's report, specifically with regard to any insight it will have for Saint Boniface — Saint Vital, and specifically the Marion/Archibald intersection.

National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls

On December 8, 2015, the federal government announced the creation of a national inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

The first phase of the inquiry centred on the design. During the pre-inquiry design process, government ministers travelled across Canada to meet with survivors, families, loved ones, Indigenous organizations and communities, provinces and territories, front-line organizations, and other experts to seek their views on the design and scope of the inquiry. An on-line consultation survey was also available for those unable to attend the meetings.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett was in Winnipeg in February to hear from local representatives. The stories are powerful, stories of immense tragedy and fighting for the safety of your loved ones. Summaries of

these meetings, which are being held across Canada, are available on the Indigenous and Northern Affairs website at www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

A summary of what was heard during the sessions and through the online survey will be posted online. The views and ideas expressed by all participants will allow the government to develop the inquiry, including the mandate, the terms of reference, the format of the Inquiry, and the timeline. The hope is that the inquiry can be launched before summer.

**A NATIONAL TOLL-FREE
CRISIS CALL LINE
IS AVAILABLE
24 HOURS A DAY.
CALL 1-844-413-6649
IF YOU NEED HELP
OR SUPPORT.**

Senate Reform

On December 3rd, the federal government announced the establishment of a new, non-partisan, merit-based process to advise the Prime Minister on Senate appointments.

The first phase of the process was the creation of an Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments, whose mandate is to provide the Prime Minister with merit-based recommendations on Senate nominations. Two Manitobans were named to the Advisory Board, Ms. Susan Lewis and Ms. Heather Bishop.

The Board undertook broad consultations within the three provinces with the greatest number of vacancies in the Senate: Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

In this initial first phase, five vacancies (two in Manitoba, two in Ontario and one in Quebec) will be filled. All other Senate vacancies will be filled once the permanent process is established.

During the first phase, the Board accepted nominations submitted by organizations only. The permanent process will be established later this year and will include an application process open to all Canadians. The goal of this process is to ensure a high standard of integrity, collaboration, and non-partisanship in the Senate, without requiring a Constitutional amendment.

www.democraticinstitutions.gc.ca





*announcement of Manitoba's Rail Relocation Task Force /
annonce du groupe de travail sur le détournement des voies ferroviaires*



*pre-budget consultations with Finance Minister Bill Morneau /
consultations prébudgétaires avec le ministre des Finances Bill Morneau*