



## Prorogation is Costly for Taxpayers, Parliament and Democracy



On December 30, 2009 the Harper Government shut down Parliament – **for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in 12 months.**

**Prorogation is costly for taxpayers, Parliament and democracy.**

Taxpayers will foot a **bill of more than \$50 million to redo the work on lost legislation.** Prorogation killed 36 government bills. Drafting, committee work, hearings, readings in Parliament, amendments and all other work on these pieces of legislation is discarded. These processes will have to be started all over again.

**Justice and crime bills destroyed:** 17 justice bills, including white collar crime, modernizing the Criminal Code and strengthening investigation legislation are gone. (Note: the legislation listed in the November “Justice Guide” pamphlet and many other taxpayer funded flyers from Conservative MP Kelly Block has been deliberately erased by her party.)

**Lack of government accountability.** Our democracy depends on elected Members of Parliament from all parties and all parts of Canada publicly holding the government to account. **A closed Parliament silences questioning** - no more questions about seniors' pensions, growing deficits, employment strategies, Afghan prisoner torture, EI benefits, access to information or anything else the government wants to hide from.

The Harper government shuts down democracy rather than be held accountable.

**New Democrats demand accountability and respect for Parliament.**

No more expensive, undemocratic prorogation privileges for a Prime Minister without a vote in Parliament.

### Your Electoral District NDP Executive

President: Grant McMurray

Vice President: Carole Sutherland

Financial Agent: Nathan Schneider

Secretary: Carla Fehr

Members-at-Large: Joy Crawford, Carmel Dodd, Ehren Klane, Francine Lyons, Clare Pattison, Eric Pooler, Jim Robbins, Lois Schrader, Nancy Stevens, Nettie Wiebe

Please email submissions to:  
carlafehr@gmail.com



Local NDP Federal Candidates with Jack Layton



## 2010 Annual General Meeting

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar New Democratic Party Federal Electoral District Association will be held:

**Date:** April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Place:** St. John School Gymnasium  
1205 Avenue N South  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Time:** Registration: 6:30 PM  
Call to Order: 7:30 PM

**Guest Speaker:** To be announced

**All members in good standing of the New Democratic Party residing within the Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar Electoral District shall be eligible to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting. Anyone on the active membership list can renew at the door. New memberships must be in to Provincial Office by the end of office hours on Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.**

The business of the meeting will be:

- To receive reports from some of the Executive Officers and our candidate, Nettie Wiebe.
- To select members to serve on the Electoral District Association Executive until our next annual meeting.
- To elect two representatives and two alternates to the Saskatchewan Council of Federal Electoral Districts.

Member participation at this meeting and ongoing participation with the electoral district association executive is key to the success we all wish for – a New Democratic MP representing our electoral district. Please come out and step forward to help with this task.

Coffee and refreshments will be served at the end of the evening.





## A Message From Nettie Wiebe

The Harper government spent months dodging questions and refusing to release information on the Afghan prisoner torture issue. The House of Commons finally had to pass a motion that will force it to release unedited documents. Failure to hand over the material could result in the Conservative government being found in contempt of Parliament and could see the Commons asking the police to step in and obtain the information. Harper responded by shutting down Parliament.

The annual RCMP report on the gun registry, required by law, was submitted to the minister's office in mid-September, 2009 to be released within the usual 15 sitting days. It was held for almost two months while Minister Van Loan's staff tried to spin the data that showed the firearms registry's use and popularity is on the rise.

An aide to cabinet minister Christian Paradis literally ran to his department's mail room to prevent a package of documents on real estate issues from being sent to a reporter who had asked for them through the access law. The heavily censored records were eventually released months after Paradis' aide stopped their release.

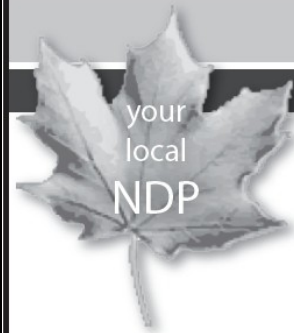
Although they ran on "open and accountable government", the Harper government is anything but open and accountable. No government before them has such a poor record on responding to Access to Information requests. No previous government has been so committed to secrecy and control over information.

The federal New Democrats are calling for a formal investigation into allegations of the Harper government's systemic violations of Canada's Access to Information laws.



Good information for citizens and their representatives is key for democracy. How can we make up our minds about government actions, hold government to account or give thoughtful input without having the necessary information?

Government secrecy or misinformation is not just a failure to satisfy idle curiosity. It undermines our democratic rights and thwarts democratic decision-making.



## LOCAL VICTORIES Challenge

- Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar NDP wants to win next time!
- The New Democratic Party of Canada wants us to win next time!
- So much so that they have made the offer to add 50% to any funds we raise locally in March and April of 2010.
- By making our contributions earlier this year we get 50% more benefit for the local campaign.

**As we have said before, "Let us do the math":**

Your total 2010 Federal Contribution	Your Federal Tax Credit	Actual cost to you (if you pay tax)	Usual benefit to local campaign if given locally	Benefit if contributed locally this March-April
\$50	\$37.50	\$12.50	\$50	<b>\$75</b>
\$100	\$75	\$25	\$100	<b>\$150</b>
\$400	\$300	\$100	\$400	<b>\$600</b>
\$750	\$475	\$275	\$750	<b>\$1125</b>
\$1100 (max.)	\$591.67	\$508.33	\$1100	<b>\$1650</b>

Having looked at the results of the last election, the Party has concluded that one important part of winning is being able to spend the local maximum allowed. Many New Democrats that nearly spent the limit almost won in 2008 and that is the case here in Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar. This is the Party's reason for assisting us and other non-incumbent electoral districts with this special window of opportunity.

Your executive has committed to having the resources to spend the maximum amount allowed and with your help we can achieve this. Please take up the challenge!