



# NEWS & VIEWS

## BRAD TROST

Your Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Humboldt

FALL 2004

Welcome to the first edition of News and Views MP report, a quarterly newsletter informing you of issues affecting our country and the constituency of Saskatoon-Humboldt. News and Views will also provide information about my activities in the House of Commons, announcements of some of my upcoming activities, and information concerning the services of an MP office. (Watch for our upcoming announcement of a rural constituency office.)

In this edition, we have included information on the gun registry fiasco, the Kyoto Accord and a list of Paul Martin's broken election promises on health care. Also included in every edition will be a questionnaire looking for your input on a variety of issues. As your new Member of Parliament I need your input to do my job properly. I need you to fill out the surveys so that I know what your priorities and opinions are. Remember I work for you, and if I don't hear from you I won't be able to represent you properly.

News and Views also let's me say a big thank-you to all the voters of Saskatoon-Humboldt who supported me on June 28th. I appreciate the trust that you exercised by casting your vote for me. I will fulfill that trust by continuing to do my utmost for the people of Saskatoon-Humboldt both in the constituency and in the House of Commons.

Let me also say a thank-you to the voters who came out and supported the other candidates and parties in the election. Democracy only works when there is a vigorous exchange of ideas between people with competing points of view. Canada needs all of its citizens to be engaged in the democratic process. By casting your vote you helped to make a better country. Thank-you for taking the time to vote.

Irrespective of whom you voted for in the last election, I will do my best to listen and represent all of the constituents of Saskatoon-Humboldt. We won't always agree on everything, but as long as I am your Member of Parliament, I will listen and try to learn. Canadians need to work together if we desire a better country, and as your Member of Parliament I will try and work with everyone who wants to work with me.

Ideas for News and Views are always appreciated, so if you have a question or if there is an issue that you would like to see addressed, write or drop by the office. If there is enough interest in an issue we will probably address it in the next edition. Remember I need your input to communicate effectively, so keep in touch.

Brad Trost your Saskatoon-Humboldt MP

### Brad Trost, MP Saskatoon-Humboldt

I work for you.  
Don't hesitate to write or call.

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# Brad Speaks Out

## BSE

Reply to the Throne Speech, Oct. 7th: “Mr. Chair, this is my first intervention in the House. I would like to thank the people of my riding of Saskatoon--Humboldt for electing me to represent them in the House. It is a great honour and privilege to represent this riding, particularly in light of the history of some of the previous members from long ago who represented the riding. In particular, I think of the former Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker, who represented most of the rural portion of my riding. Mr. Diefenbaker was a Prime Minister who stood for the farmers of Canada, and who unlike this government actually delivered for the farmers of Canada. My question for [fellow Conservative MP David Anderson] the member for Cypress Hills-Grasslands is following on something said earlier by a colleague. One of the things we note is that most of these programs are provincially shared. In particular, looking at a document produced by the parliamentary library, it notes that the provincial share contributed by the Province of Saskatchewan as of September 26, 2004, was a mere \$12.5 million. For Saskatchewan's 3.5 million cattle it works out to \$3.50 per head. Does the member think that the Calvert government has done an adequate job in providing only \$3.50 per head as of this date, September 26?”

MP Anderson's reply: “Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague from Saskatoon-Humboldt. As we know, he is one of several young MPs who have come into the House from Saskatchewan. We are proud to have him here. Obviously, those of us who come from that province under-

stand the deficiencies of the Saskatchewan government. We have unfortunately had to live with an NDP government for far too long. Basically, it has run the province into the ground....”

## Bill C-2

Brad Trost, Conservative MP for Saskatoon-Humboldt, made his debut in Question Period on Oct. 15th by calling upon the Liberal government to put the rights of children first, instead of worrying about the rights of child pornographers. “Why does the government use the Charter as an excuse to protect pornographers instead of children?” Trost asked. After leaving the House of Commons, Trost added: “The government should follow the lead of the Conservative Party and adopt a zero tolerance policy when it comes to the possession of child pornography. People should not be allowed to possess child pornography for “artistic merit,” “legitimate purposes” or any other name you give to these legalistic loopholes. The Liberals' solution, Bill C-2, is a poorly drafted piece of legislation that won't make it any easier to prosecute sexual predators.”

Trost brought this issue to the attention of his fellow MPs and parents across Canada because he was concerned about comments made by Justice Minister Irwin Cotler on Oct. 13th regarding Bill C-2, the government's latest child pornography legislation. At the time, Justice Minister Cotler denied that Bill C-2 provides loopholes for the possession of child pornography. The Justice Minister also said that the government “must protect the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well.” In response to MP Trost's QP

question on Oct. 15th, Minister Cotler said: “Mr. Speaker, as Attorney General I am obliged with respect to the introduction of any legislation to certify that it comports with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.”

## Kyoto

Oct. 19: MP Trost grilled Environment Minister Stephane Dion in the House of Commons about how much Kyoto will cost farmers: “Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of questions for the minister. In particular, he has been talking about environmental costs. I am interested in how Kyoto and the environmental plan, when they come forward, will impact a couple of areas of transportation and agriculture. One thing that has been noted by the fertilizer industry of Canada, as Kyoto goes forward, is that the demand for natural gas will rise considerably, leading to a point where it will no longer be economical for fertilizer plants to use Canadian natural gas, thus killing off the fertilizer industry. My first question is, has the government researched how much farmers will face in increased fertilizer costs? How much will this add to the bottom line. I am sure the minister knows that farmers are already suffering. They have intense international competition and this will continue to drive up their costs. I wonder if the government has thought of that. I also wonder if the government was aware that many pollution devices for engines, automobiles and tractors take energy to run. They clean out the pollutants that actually cause smog, but they cause more fuel to be burned in the process, thus creating more carbon dioxide. My follow up question is, has the

government thought through that reducing carbon dioxide emissions from these vehicles, tractors and so forth, would actually increase the smog?”

Environment Minister Dion mentioned “sustainable” agriculture in his reply, but he did not answer MP Trost's questions about the higher input costs farmers will have to pay if Canada implements the Kyoto Accord.

## IPSCO

Oct. 19: MP Trost questioned Ontario NDP MP David Christopherson (representing the riding of Hamilton-Centre) about Kyoto killing steelworkers' jobs in Saskatchewan and Ontario: “Mr. Speaker, I have a comment and then a question for the member. I do not know if the member knows it, but in Saskatchewan we too have steelworkers. IPSCO in Regina is a steel producer. One of the things noted in a newspaper article in the Regina Leader-Post some years ago was that at that time the possible implementation of the Kyoto Accord could increase the cost for electricity 25% for IPSCO thus killing off steelworkers' jobs in Regina and of course steelworkers' jobs all across the country. How does the member bring together his party's support for the Kyoto Accord, which according to the steel industry will kill steelworkers' jobs? How does he bring that together with his professed support for the steelworkers in his riding?” Christopherson did not answer Trost's questions directly about the fact that Kyoto will kill steelworkers' jobs if the Liberal government implements the Kyoto Accord. He said that steelworkers were “strong environmentalists.”

Byline: Erin Anderssen  
Tuesday, October 5, 2004

# The rookie: MP gets some suits, sleeps on the floor and misses home cooking

In a basement corner of the Wellington Building, Brad Trost is getting advice on whether he needs starch in his shirts. The rookie MP had predicted he would get lost hunting for the dry cleaner with his duffel bag of dirty laundry, but with direction from his administrative assistant, and guided by a few well-placed signs, he finds it just fine. He plans to make the trip often. He didn't even own a suit until a couple of months ago -- now he has three -- and his mom, back in Saskatchewan, is too far away to iron his shirts.

"I'm single," the 30-year-old geophysicist offers by way of explanation.

"Out in the bush it didn't matter what you wore as long as you were warm." Mr. Trost left the bush and his job hunting diamonds to become the Conservative candidate for Saskatoon-Humboldt, winning the seat by 400 votes. In the minority Parliament, where backbenchers are expected to play a larger role than they have before, he ranks seventh-youngest in the House of Commons, numbered among a pack of socially conservative young Tories making their debut this week.

It is fashionable for new politicians to play the fish-out-of-water routine upon their arrival in Ottawa, but Mr. Trost does appear an unlikely match for the relative stuffiness of Hill life. He is already complaining

about the food, for one thing: too many bite-sized crudites, not enough heaping plates of beef.

He is a farm boy, after all, who still hauls grain for his dad on spare Saturdays, and won't wear a tie unless he "absolutely has to." He is still sleeping on a mattress on the floor of his apartment, where, for lack of a table, he eats breakfast standing up.

Sitting at his desk on the ninth floor of the Confederation Building, flanked by still-empty bookshelves and walls decorated with nails from the previous occupant, he acknowledges being a rather unpractised schmoozer. He leafs through his green binder of invitations, and jumps at a gathering of engineers where he can comfortably talk shop. He plans to make science his priority, along with the rural issues affecting his riding. He can tell you how much a farmer needs to break even on the harvest, and just as comfortably explain the technical challenges of finding nickel underground.

That job, he says, is why he's still single: The dating opportunities on the nation's tundra are fairly limited, and one of the reasons he gave it up was to have a social life. Lean and lanky at 6 foot 3, Mr. Trost appears younger than he is (he even darkened his campaign photo to look older) but he is ambitious. On a seating map,

he points out his spot in the House, in the farthest back row of the opposition side, and slides his finger up forward, to where he'd liked to be eventually.

His family, he says, have always been unwavering Conservatives. His parents made the trip for his swearing in from Melville, where his mom is a librarian and his dad works part-time as a janitor. "My mom teared up," Mr.

Trost recalls. "My father just thought it was funny how everyone was calling me sir." For now, he's getting used to handling the crank calls to his riding office, whether it be the overly mellow members of the Marijuana Party or the persistent guy convinced that the

government is secretly using airplanes to seed clouds as part of a conspiracy to change the climate. And he's felt like a church minister trying to counsel some hard-luck cases -- immigrants struggling to get family settled in Canada, a young woman trying to jump the queue for surgery. "I am not used to having strangers open up to me." Yesterday, taking his seat for the first time in the House of Commons, Mr. Trost stared across at the cabinet ministers he'd only seen on television, and waited for his awe of the place to pass.

"I keep worrying," he said, leaving the chamber after the Speaker was elected, "that I have a deer-in-the-headlights look."

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Should the federal government send a higher percentage of fuel taxes back to municipalities to improve roads?  
 Yes    No    Not sure    Don't Care
- Should the federal government provide more aid for the BSE crisis?  
 Yes    No    Not sure    Don't Care
- Do you think that the new Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (CAISP) is effective?  
 Yes    No    Not sure    Don't Care
- Should the definition of marriage remain: "the voluntary union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others"?  
 Yes    No    Not sure    Don't Care
- The Liberals have spent or allocated almost \$5 billion on climate change programs under the Kyoto Protocol. Should the federal government allow climate scientists who are against Kyoto to testify before a Parliamentary Committee before more tax money is spent on Kyoto?  
 Yes    No    Not sure    Don't Care
- The Liberals have spent almost \$2 billion on the gun registry. Should the federal government spend more tax money on the gun registry?  
 Yes    No    Not sure    Don't Care

# Coming soon: New constituency office in Humboldt



Left: Brad Trost (MP Saskatoon Humboldt) and Brent Kuemper of the Saskatoon Police Service visit with a supporter during the ninth annual Alzheimer Coffee Break fundraiser at the Centre at Circle & 8th on September 21st. Fellow Conservative MP's Lynne Yelich and Carol Skelton and volunteers from the Saskatoon Police Service and MD Ambulance were also in attendance. \$1,800 was raised for the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan. Over \$60,000 has been raised to date province wide.

## JUST THE FACTS: Martin and Broken Promises

Paul Martin said: "We will fulfill all of the commitments that we made during the election campaign." (Martin News Conference, September 13, 2004). Once again, however, Martin's actions don't measure up to his words.

The facts - List of Some of Martin's Broken Promises post-election:

- Martin has stepped back from his promise to meet for as long as it takes to fix health care "for a generation" and now suggests it will take several meetings, while there will be a 10-year plan, rather than "a generation".
- After promising a national pharmacare program during the election, Martin now says that the Liberals only promised a plan for catastrophic drug coverage, despite a letter that Martin sent to PEI Premier Pat Binns openly endorsing a national pharmacare plan in June.
- Martin's grand promises of giving Parliament a role in reviewing appointments to the Supreme Court instead resulted in a rubber-stamp process, where the appointees didn't even appear.
- Martin promised "a new deal" for cities would be in place by year's end. Now, with a Liberal caucus committee just created that will not report until November, and negotiations with the provinces reportedly on hold awaiting cabinet approval, the year end deadline seems doubtful.
- Martin promised the issue of offshore resources would be resolved by the end of the summer for both Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia, with still no action. (CP Wire, September 1, 2004).
- Martin promised in 2001 to instruct Revenue Canada to find a solution for the 64 JDS employees burdened by mounting tax bills on hundreds of thousands of dollars in stock profits they never saw. Martin reiterated his pledge when a former JDS employee of the now-defunct JDS Central Saanich fibre-optics plant buttonholed him during his pre-election swing through Victoria. (The Province, September 7, 2004).
- Martin said he would also be meeting with mayors this summer to start getting practical about the so-called new deal for municipalities. (Toronto Star, July 18, 2004). No such meeting has occurred.

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