



# Souris–Moose Mountain Update Christmas Edition 2006

## Ed Komarnicki Member of Parliament

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Caring and Sharing is an important part of Christmas. Ed with Bonnie Schmidt and her daughter, Josie-Lee.

The Christmas Season is here. It is a time to remember why it is a season of great joy, good will and glad tidings. It is also a time to unwind, relax, to visit with family and friends, and to enjoy good food and hospitality.

As we cherish these times and reflect on them, they will become our most precious possessions.

On behalf of my wife, Sally, and our family, I would like to extend best wishes from our home to yours for a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

Yours truly,

Ed Komarnicki  
Member of Parliament  
Souris-Moose Mountain  
Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration



## Canadian Wheat Board Update: Plebiscite to be Held

Questions relating to marketing choice for farmers while maintaining a strong Canadian Wheat Board have sparked a lot of debate around the constituency. I expect further debate around the Minister's plebiscite announcement and the findings of the Task Force.

The Task Force recognized that any change will of necessity be transitional and take place over time.

In the transition phase it calls for marketing choice for barley by February of 2008, followed by wheat marketing choice by July of 2008.

Changes proposed by the Task Force include:

-That the new Canadian Wheat Board would not administer cash advances;

-That the Canadian Grain Commission would address access to producer railcars including access to terminals; and

-Improved shipper protection provisions in the Canada Transportation Act.

The Task Force made the following interesting comments that we should all take note of:

-Consumer demands from North America and around the globe for differentiated products are driving change in the way grain is marketed;

- New uses such as bio-fuels and industrial usage are expanding the market for grains but at the same time have different requirements than the traditional uses of food and feed; and

-The days when millions of tonnes of wheat are marketed to State buying agencies on standard grades alone have passed.

What the Task Force has recommended is marketing choice where wheat and barley farmers will be able to sell their wheat and barley to any domestic or foreign buyer of their choice, including a transformed Canadian Wheat Board. The Task Force suggests that under a proper framework and with appropriate assets a

transformed Wheat Board would have a high probability of success in an environment where it would have to compete for business.

It seems that change is inevitable and that change is coming. Many have called, not only for input but also for a vote by producers. The Agriculture Minister has listened and has decided to put a clear question to producers with respect to marketing choice for barley. Producers will have the opportunity to express themselves through a plebiscite on this issue.

The Task Force report should provide the basis for a good debate, but in the end, where we go on this issue will depend on where the farmers want to go and whether they believe the time for change has come.

“...In the end, where we go on this issue will depend on where the farmers want to go and whether they believe the time for change has come.”

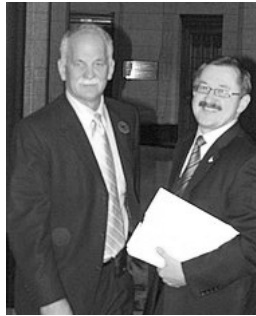
## Souris-Moose Mountain

### Conservative Government Gets Tough on Repeat Offenders and Tackles Crime

On October 17th, the Conservative Government introduced Bill C-27, a Bill that provides for tougher sentences, including indefinite prison terms for repeat sexual and/or violent offenders. The legislation will:

- Make it easier for Crown Prosecutors to obtain a Dangerous Offender designation against individuals convicted for a third violent or sexual offence by placing the onus on the offender to show why he or she should not be incarcerated as a 'Dangerous Offender';
- Create stricter Peace Bond provisions for high risk offenders by extending the maximum

duration of Peace Bonds from 12 to 24 months, with various terms which may include requiring the offender to wear an electronic monitoring device;



Ed armed with petitions and Vic Toews, Minister of Justice.

- Strengthen the National Flagging system to make it easier to track high risk individuals.

In addition to this legislation, the Conservative Government has introduced a number of other laws to get tough on crime. They include raising the age of protection from 14 to 16 years, ending conditional sentences for serious offences and tackling drug-impaired driving, an initiative that has been endorsed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

### Petition to Get Tough on Repeat Sex-Offenders



Petitions are being received by my office on a regular basis from across the country. As of November 16th, I have received over 16,000 signatures. I will continue to present them to the House and refer them to the Minister of Justice.

The petition calls upon the Government to legislate harsher penalties for convicted pedophiles, mandatory compulsory electronic or other form of monitoring, compulsory public notification on their movements and measures to ensure repeat offenders are designated as dangerous offenders.

To obtain a copy of the petition visit my website at:  
[www.edkomarnicki.ca](http://www.edkomarnicki.ca)

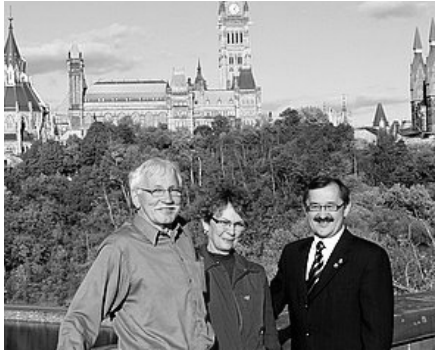
Make your thoughts known to the Government of Canada by signing a petition and getting others to join with you.



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**Ed Komarnicki, M.P.**

**Constituent Visits to Ottawa...**



John & Audrey Johnson of Estevan.



Brian and Ellen Pegg of Weyburn.



Frank and Toni John of Estevan.



Wanda Johnson of Estevan.



Jerry and Carol Figler of Stoughton.



Ed and Anita Smith of Estevan.



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### Clean Air Act to Encourage Bio-Fuel Development

The Conservative Government is moving forward with a fresh approach and with practical steps when it comes to improving the environment.

On October 19th, Environment Minister, Rona Ambrose, announced Canada's Clean Air Act, the cornerstone of the Conservative Government's environmental agenda.

The Act lays the foundation for a number of practical and measurable steps that our Government is taking to deliver results.

One practical step such as setting a

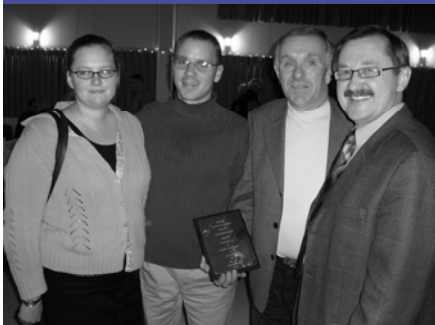
renewable fuel target of 5% by the year 2010 will have an effect equivalent to taking 1.3 million cars off the road each year. At the same time, this target will provide considerable benefit to farming communities and those that are connected with bio-fuels production.

There is little question that the Act will set in motion the ability to more aggressively pursue bio-fuel options.

The regulated blending of fuels is not only good for the environment but may also be the shot in the arm that farmers need given the present state of agriculture.

### Around the Constituency...

#### Weyburn Farmer Appreciation Night...



This year's winner of the **Weyburn Chamber of Commerce Golden Sheaf Award** was Doug Beach of Cedoux. This award allows the Chamber to recognize excellence in farming achievement and to help foster urban-rural understanding.

(See Above L-R) Daughter in law, Lynn Beach, and son, David Beach, who farm with award winner, Doug Beach, and Ed Komarnicki, Member of Parliament.

In a recent visit to Oungre, I met with interested parties, the Reeve and Councillors of the R.M. of Souris Valley No.7 and fielded questions concerning the Canadian Wheat Board. I also attended an APAS meeting in Stoughton where the issue of marketing choice was debated. There is no doubt that there are strong feelings on either side of the issue.

#### Visit to the Lyndale School in Oungre...



In Oungre, I also spoke to a grade 11 and 12 law class at the Lyndale School. A fun photo after the speak.

Ed Komarnicki, M.P.



## It Came Upon a Midnight Clear By Edmund H. Sears

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From Heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife  
And hear the angels sing.

(1st and 3rd Stanzas of the famous hymn)

## A Day of Remembrance...



A crowded Legion Hall in Moosomin, SK was the scene of a moving ceremony where young and old paid tribute to our fallen heroes.



Ed Komarnicki, Private James Smith with the Princess Patricia Light Infantry and Sally Komarnicki at the Moosomin Remembrance Day Service.



Lest We Forget...

Private Smith completed a seven month tour in Afghanistan in August 2006 and shared his experience in Afghanistan with Ed.

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### Tax Fairness Plan- Income Trusts & Income Splitting for Pensioners

The recent announcement by the Government to tax income trusts has received some attention in recent weeks. With Telus and BCE announcing their intention to enter the publicly traded income trust arena, and with other large corporations looking to join in, the Government had to make a decision.

If corporations aren't paying their fair share of taxes, the tax burden is going to shift onto the shoulders of hardworking Canadians and their families. I am mindful of our promise not to tax income trusts, but our promise in fact was directed to seniors and protecting their retirement income and not towards corporations who would use that as a basis for avoiding paying income taxes. We cannot doggedly hang on to a promise when it doesn't make sense to do so and where the circumstances have fundamentally changed.

Being mindful of our commitment to seniors, over a billion dollars of new tax relief was announced for the direct benefit of seniors. The government will permit income splitting for pensioners with respect to their pension income and will increase the Age Credit Amount by \$1,000 from \$4,000 to \$5,000, effective January 1, 2006.

That said, more needs to be done. Families and small businesses still pay too much tax in this country and our Government needs to continue to reduce the tax burden on all Canadians. I look forward to further initiatives in this regard in the spring budget.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6**



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## Ed Komarnicki, M.P.

### Traditional Definition of Marriage

In recent months there has been a growing interest from various pro-family groups and individuals from across the country in the reopening of the debate to preserve the traditional definition of marriage.

During the last election, the Conservatives made a promise to revisit the marriage issue by holding a free vote on a motion to reopen the debate. I intend to speak in favour of the motion when it is introduced in the House.

This fall, a leadership team of ten young people from MY Canada met with me in my office in Ottawa to discuss among many issues, the reopening of the marriage debate.



Ed visits with Faytene Kryskow, Director of MY Canada, a group of young people that is making their voice heard on issues of morality. A crew from CBC television captured the meeting Ed had with the group and later conducted an interview regarding the group's objectives.

[www.edkomarnicki.ca](http://www.edkomarnicki.ca)

## Give Me Your Feedback

**In an effort to serve you better, I would like to know what you think. Please take a moment to fill out this short survey and then tear off this card and mail it to me. No postage is required.**

Do you agree with the Government's decision to tax income trusts by way of a distribution tax?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you agree with the Government's decision to permit pension income splitting?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Should income splitting be extended to working families?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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