

LAVAR PAYNE, M.P.

MEDICINE HAT CONSTITUENCY

Your representative in Ottawa www.lavarpayne.ca



Dear Constituents,

Over the last number of months we have seen violence increase around the globe. This is very disturbing to me, my family and many of you whom I have spoken to over the last few months.

We have seen a rise in the terrorist organizations such as Hamas which has sent thousands rocket into Israel targeting civilians. Once the rockets were fired by Hamas, Israel then responded to those Hamas attacks and proceeded to protect its citizens by attacking Hamas positions. What they found and it was confirmed that Hamas hid rockets in schools, Mosques and United Nations compounds and at the

same time Hamas used their own citizens as human shields to protect their munitions. Israel also found dozens of tunnels built so Hamas terrorists could enter Israel to kill Israeli citizens. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has made it very clear Canada stands by Israel's right to live in peace with their neighbours and to protect their citizens from the terrorist organization Hamas and other terrorists.

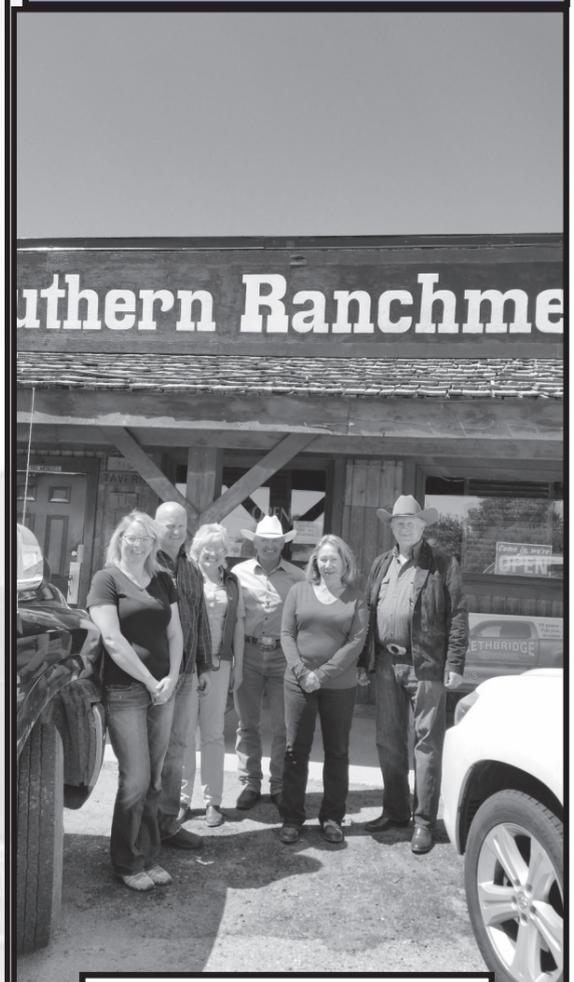
In other world events we saw Russia send their rebels (called supporters of Russia) invade many communities of Ukraine. Russia's aim was to take over Crimea and potentially other parts of Ukraine. Ukraine is a free country and this Russian backed invasion has caused a stir globally and condemnation around the world. NATO countries and European nations are very concerned that Russia may be preparing a total invasion of Ukraine and other Baltic countries. Again our Prime Minister was the first to visit Ukraine at the beginning of the crisis and show Canada's continued and unending support for an independent Ukraine and their territories including Crimea.

Over the last couple of months we have seen the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (sometimes called ISIS) terrorist organization in Syria and Iraq. This is a brutal and barbaric terrorist organization who have beheaded several western individuals (British & American). ISIL has murdered men women and children and has also taken women to make them slaves and children to be trained as terrorist fighters. ISIL has named the Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Australia and other countries to which they actively ask Islamic individuals to behead and murder any citizens of these countries in the name of Islam. Our Prime Minister recognizes the grave situation which faces countries around the globe. ISIL has specifically targeted Canada and Canadians, urging their supporters to attack "disbelieving Canadians in any manner", vowing that we should not feel secure, even in our homes. Canada has already provided millions of dollars to assist those refugees fleeing ISIL by providing food, shelter and medical supplies to organizations already in the area. On September 5, the Prime Minister announced that members of the Canadian Army, in a non-combat role, would advise and assist security forces in Iraq battling ISIL terrorists.

On Friday October 3, the Prime Minister put forward a motion asking the House to confirm its confidence for a Government decision to join our allies and partners; The United States, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and (likely) others, in launching air strikes against ISIL. This motion was thoroughly debated and voted on Tuesday October 7, 2014. I will be supporting this motion and I know that citizens of my riding will be watching this important debate and support the protection of Canadians around the globe against this barbaric organization ISIL.

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LaVar with members of Sustainable Canada Association in Manyberries, after a tour of ranchland affected by the Emergency Protection Order for the Greater Sage-Grouse

The Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement will boost Canada's domestic economy

I was pleased to note the signing of the Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Korean President Park Geun-hye in September. This deal is good news for our exporters and importers as it eliminates most tariffs on most products. That means lower prices for Canadians on a number of items.

It's also excellent news because it means Canada will now have a preferential tariff rate for our exports into the South Korea. This will drive Canadian jobs, increase our profile in Asia and in very many ways it's what I would consider a foot in the door into the Asian market, so to speak.

The agreement will:

1. strengthen our trade and investment ties across the Pacific;
2. increase the prosperity of both countries; and,
3. result in job creation and enhanced opportunities for Canadian and Korean businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises, as well as investors, workers, and consumers.

I am very excited for the future of Canada-Korea relations and trade, and I think this will be a very fruitful partnership for years to come.

Changes to Immigration Law Make Canada Safer

With the passage of Bill C-24 in June, Canada's Citizenship Act has now been updated in a significant way. The world is a very dangerous place. Global terrorism, errant nations flexing their military muscle, and testing the limits of world peace mean that Canada has to take a proactive approach with respect to security abroad, but also within our own borders. Bill C-24 will make changes such as:

Improving efficiency

Canada's citizenship program is being improved by reducing the decision-making process from three steps to one. It is expected that, by 2015-2016, this change will bring the average processing time for citizenship applications down to under a year. It is also projected that by 2015-2016, the current backlog will be reduced by more than 80 percent.

Reinforcing the value of Canadian citizenship

The government is ensuring citizenship applicants maintain strong ties to Canada. These amendments to the *Citizenship Act* provide a clearer indication that the "residence" period to qualify for citizenship in fact requires physical presence in Canada.

More applicants will now be required to meet language requirements and pass a knowledge test to ensure that new citizens are better prepared to fully participate in Canadian society. New provisions will also help individuals with strong ties to Canada, such as by automatically extending citizenship to additional "Lost Canadians" who were born before 1947 as well as to their children born in the first generation outside Canada.

Cracking down on citizenship fraud

The updated *Citizenship Act* includes stronger penalties for fraud and misrepresentation (a maximum fine of \$100,000 and/or five years in prison) and expands the grounds to bar an application for citizenship to include foreign criminality, which will help improve program integrity.

Protecting and promoting Canada's interests and values

Finally, the amendments bring Canada in line with most of our peer countries, by providing that citizenship can be revoked from dual nationals who are convicted of serious crimes such as terrorism, high treason and spying offences (depending on the sentence received) or who take up arms against Canada. Permanent residents who commit these acts will be barred from citizenship.

As a way of recognizing the important contributions of those who serve Canada in uniform, permanent residents who are members of the Canadian Armed Forces will have quicker access to Canadian citizenship. The Act also stipulates that children born to Canadian parents serving abroad as servants of the Crown are able to pass on Canadian citizenship to children they have or adopt outside Canada.

Quick Facts About C-24:

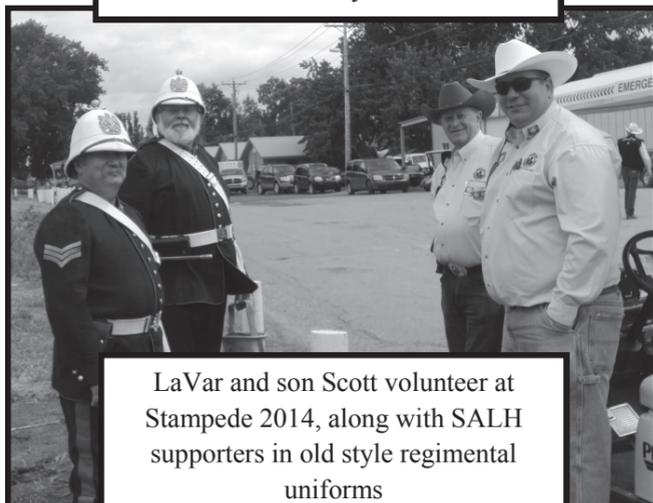
- Requiring 14-64 year-olds to meet knowledge and language requirements provides an incentive for more individuals to acquire official language proficiency and civics knowledge, which helps them successfully integrate into Canadian society.
- Citizenship applicants will need to be physically present in Canada for a total of four out of their last six years. In addition, they will need to be physically present in Canada for 183 days per year for at least four of those six years. These provisions will come into force in approximately a year.
- Under the new streamlined decision-making model, citizenship officers will decide all aspects of a citizenship application. Under the old model, obtaining citizenship was a three-step process that involved duplication of work. Since 2006, Canada has welcomed over 1,300,000 proud new Canadians. Citizenship and Immigration Canada received 333,860 citizenship applications in 2013, the highest volume ever.



LaVar with Leona Wright, a constituent visiting Ottawa



LaVar holding an unmanned drone with officials at the CCUVS announcement in July



LaVar and son Scott volunteer at Stampede 2014, along with SALH supporters in old style regimental uniforms

A Letter from a Veteran of the Canadian Forces

Dear Mr Payne,

I am writing to you express my concern regarding recent derogatory media reports about the Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA).

It began with Funeral Directors complaining about lack of funds to bury veterans, then Molly Maid complaining about veterans not accessing their services and finally CUPE complaining about closing eight Veterans Affairs offices and denying service. Today, there was yet another article on page A8 of the Medicine Hat News "Canada's benefits system denies and delays until claimants die". In my view this is all about following the dollar with these organizations trying to get more funds from the Gov't and utilizing veterans to garner public support. Some veterans are buying into this to get more free money. The media is more about telling a story rather than presenting balanced stories with all the facts.

Let me state up front as a veteran with 37 years service and three overseas deployments, I am insulted by these stories. I have no complaints about my benefits or the service from VA. I am receiving exactly what I agreed to when I enrolled or added to my coverage as I served. My wife believes the benefits are very generous and has no difficulty dealing with VA over the phone on the 1-800 number. We have never visited a VA office. To my knowledge, I don't require anything more.

Can the system be more responsive with the implementation of the 14 recommendations? Perhaps the bureaucracy can be tweaked; however, I don't know what recommendations were made. In my view, greed appears to be playing too large a role in the discussion. This applies to veterans and other organizations alike. The sense of entitlement has become pervasive. People make career choices and lifestyle choices. These people may have made some bad choices. They should live with their choices. Playing the patriotism card and adding emotion for additional benefits after the fact is simply not acceptable.

My father was a veteran as was my father-in-law. Both received good pensions, care, and benefits from VA until they passed away. They received what they had agreed to when they enrolled and never expected anything else. Please pass on my comments and thanks to the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

Yours truly,

Maj (rtd) DL Davies OMM,CD

We want to hear from you!

Also keep in touch with LaVar on:

facebook

twitter

Do you support the tough stance on foreign policy taken by Stephen Harper's Conservatives?

Yes No

In your opinion, is LaVar working hard to deliver real results for Medicine Hat Constituency?

Yes No

Please share your suggestions/invitations with LaVar (no postage required):

Yes! I want to keep this conversation going!

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

The Canadian Equalization Program/Transfers

Informative Chart Outlining Canada Federal Government Support to the Province of Alberta:

	2005 -2006	2006 -2007	2007 -2008	2008 -2009	2009 -2010	2010 -2011	2011 -2012	2012 -2013	2013 -2014	2014 -2015
(millions of dollars)										
Major Transfers										
Canada Health Transfer ¹	1,641	1,473	1,784	1,784	1,962	2,155	2,257	2,453	2,723	3,751
Canada Social Transfer	592	500	1,011	1,136	1,181	1,219	1,260	1,325	1,396	1,470
Total - Federal Support	2,233	1,973	2,795	2,920	3,143	3,374	3,518	3,778	4,119	5,221
Change from 2005-06		-260	+562	+686	+910	+1,140	+1,285	+1,545	+1,885	+2,988
<i>Per Capita Allocation (dollars)</i>	674	578	797	814	856	905	930	974	1,027	1,258

I often receive questions from constituents regarding Government of Canada federal transfers to Alberta. Here is the information from the website of the Department of Finance Canada, which was retrieved here <http://www.fin.gc.ca/fedprov/mtp-eng.asp#Alberta>. Essentially, the Equalization Program ensures that all corners of Canada are looked after. We realize that, despite being divided into Provinces, poor economic activity in one part of Canada affects every other part of Canada in some way, shape, or form.

The Canada Health Transfer is the single largest transfer from the Government of Canada to the Provinces. Despite some poor media coverage, our Conservative Government actually promised to increase the transfer dollars to Alberta, and we kept our promise. Through Budget 2014, we increased 3.7 billion through the *Canada Health Transfer*, an increase of \$2.1 billion, or over 129% since 2005-06 under the former Liberal government. \$1.5 billion through the *Canada Social Transfer*, an increase of \$878 million, or almost 148% since 2005-06 under the former Liberal government.

Stay up to date on Federal Matters!

For more information on the progress of any Government Bill, visit www.parl.gc.ca or contact our Ottawa office.

Planning a trip to Ottawa? Visit during the House of Commons is in session, meet with LaVar, and attend a session of Question Period. Contact my Ottawa Office for assistance!



LaVar meeting with Prime Minister Harper in his constituency office in Calgary

We want to hear from you!



NO
POSTAGE
REQUIRED

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**STOP
HATING
ONLINE**
#ENDCYBERBULLYING

Get Cyber Safe with some tips for parents from the Government of Canada!

Here are some of the common ways that cyberbullying is taking place among young people across Canada: Sending mean or threatening messages by email, text or through comments on a social networking page; Spreading embarrassing rumours, secrets or gossip about another person through social networking sites, email, or texts; Taking an embarrassing picture or video of someone with a digital camera and sending it to others or posting it online without their knowledge or permission.

Open up a discussion with your child about cyberbullying. It's the best way to show them you think it's important to their lives – and will make it easier for them to come to you in the future: Let them know you've become aware of the issue; you might mention it's been in the news a lot, and seems to have become a pretty big thing among teens lately; Refer to the stories you may have heard or read about; Ask your child if they've ever seen any kind of cyberbullying and let them tell you about it; Be careful not to make it an interrogation; listen and open up the lines of communication.

Reassure them you won't take away their social networking access or mobile device. Children and teens are often afraid to confide in their parents for fear their online access or devices will be taken away.

Parents have a major role to play in preventing cyber-bullying. In an era where access to technology is so prevalent, it is important that we all work together to make sure it does not happen in our communities. There are support networks out there, and the Children's Help Phone hotline can be reached toll-free and 24/7 at 1-800-668-6868. For further resources on cyberbullying, please visit <http://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/cnt/cbrblng/prnts/index-eng.aspx>.



Ottawa Staff Holly Michalchuk and Andrew Poncia participating in the 2014 Medicine Hat Stampede Parade



LaVar and staff at the CO-OP Stampede breakfast, from left to right: Andrew Poncia and Holly Michalchuk from the Ottawa office, Sue Howe from the Medicine Hat office and Karen Kallen from the Brooks/Taber offices



LaVar and other riders at the funeral of Private Lawrence Gordon. Killed serving in World War II in the US Army in France, he has been repatriated to his hometown of Eastend, Saskatchewan. May he Rest in Peace.

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