

SELINA ROBINSON, MLA, COQUITLAM-MAILLARDVILLE

BI-ANNUAL REPORT 2015



IN THIS ISSUE

- BC SUMMER GAMES
- TEACHERS' JOB ACTION
- LNG
- EDUCATION FORUM
- FOOD BANKS
- RIVERVIEW

I am pleased to bring you this mid-year Constituency Report to keep you updated on the activities and efforts of your MLA.

Since my last Annual Report here are a few things I have been doing on your behalf.

- As the Spokesperson for Local Government and Sport I had the opportunity to attend the BC Summer Games in Nanaimo last July. Watching young people give everything they have to their sport is something to behold. I was also in awe at the number of community volunteers who gave their time to ensure that these were successful summer games for BC's young athletes.
- MP Fin Donnelly and I cohosted a Community Barbeque at Blue Mountain Park in September. Well over 150 people joined us for conversation, hotdogs and soft drinks. There were lots of activities for kids and the weather was perfect for an afternoon picnic.
- During September I visited just about every school in Coquitlam-Maillardville and talked with teachers, parents and students about the job action and the impact this was having on everyone. Teachers were frustrated that no real bargaining took place over the summer and that now parents and students were paying the price for this inaction. Everyone was grateful that the government finally got back to the table - but I don't think this is the end of our education challenges in British Columbia.
- I was in the Legislature for much of October and November. The focus of the session was debate on the LNG bills – one related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the other related to LNG taxation.

I supported the taxation bill (even though I thought it could have been a stronger bill). I did not support the GHG bill – I thought it was weak and did not follow through on the government's commitment to the cleanest LNG in the world.

- In December I co-hosted a forum about Public Education in the Tri-Cities. I was joined by Mike Farnworth, MLA for Port Coquitlam and Rob Fleming, MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake and the Opposition Spokesperson for Education. We heard concerns from parents about the lack of teachers and learning resources for their children. We heard from teachers about over-filled classrooms and lack of equipment. I will be bringing these concerns forward once we are back at the legislature.
- We had a great turnout at our Holiday Open House where we came together as a community to catch up and share stories. We lit the Chanukah candles together and wished each other well for 2015.

It's been a very busy summer and fall and I am looking forward to the spring session in the Legislature. I look forward to hearing the Throne Speech to see what the government has on the agenda for the next session.

We will also be spending considerable time debating the budget. I look forward to seeing what lays ahead for Coquitlam-Maillardville and our province. I invite you to stay connected by signing up for my monthly electronic newsletter Selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca. Feel free to come by my office 102-1108 Austin Ave (parking behind building enter off Marmont) or give us a call 604.933.2001.

All the best,
Selina

CELEBRATING AT OUR HOLIDAY
OPEN HOUSE, DECEMBER 2014



SELINA ROBINSON IN THE LEGISLATURE

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Lunar New Year
Festival Du Bois

MARCH

13th - Tri Cities
Chamber

presents a chat with
John Horgan

APRIL

4th - Easter Egg Hunt at
Blue Mountain Park

JUNE

Daisy Day
Teddy Bear Parade

JULY

1st - Canada Day
Celebration



CELEBRATING TERRI EVAN'S LEGACY WITH THE
COQUITLAM FARMERS MARKET WITH THE MAYOR, BOARD
AND MP, OCTOBER 2014



WITH NEWLY ELECTED SD #43 TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT
AT OUR EDUCATION FORUM, DECEMBER, 2014

Terri Evans, who brought this project to fruition has been a mainstay of the Market. Terri took an idea and moved it to action. She identified a team to help her bring the idea to fruition and tried it out. She recognized the economic and community development power of the Coquitlam Farmer's Market and has been building on its success ever since.

Members Statement, in the legislature,
October 21, 2014

I'm incredibly proud of my community, because Coquitlam is going to be hosting a major tournament this summer. The Coquitlam Little League will be hosting the Senior Little League Canadian Championship next summer as part of the organization's 60th anniversary. It will be the fifth time in the 60-year history that Coquitlam will play host to Canadian Little League baseball.

Private Members Statement, in the legislature,
November 24, 2014

On top of all that, this bill has set out the 0.16 GHG intensity level in a schedule at the end of the bill. ...While I appreciate good policy and I don't think I'd ever call myself a policy wonk, I do know enough to know that when it's not in the bill, if it's in a schedule at the end of the bill, it means that it can be easily changed. You don't have to open up the entire bill in order to do that. That really makes it incredibly flexible. We have this impressive, gymnastic bill that you could do frontward walkovers, backward walkovers, handsprings with. You can do the splits with it, it's so flexible. It worries me that this government perhaps is bending over backwards, just like a gymnast, to accommodate the LNG industry. Never mind the commitment that was made to British Columbians.

Debate on BILL 2 —
Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting And Control Act,
October 28, 2014



AND IN THE COMMUNITY

WE HAVE TO MOVE BEYOND FOOD BANKS

The Tri-Cities is a generous community. All year round the call goes out to support the SHARE Food Bank, and all year round the community responds.

The spirit of generosity continues and our community responds whenever the call is put out that the food bank shelves are almost empty. It's wonderful to see and to experience a community come together to make sure that we are feeding our neighbours and our neighbours' children.

And yet, I wonder if this is the best response we can muster. Food banks were intended to be a temporary measure during the recession of the mid-1980s. However, what was supposed to be a temporary response to a crisis has become a permanent fixture of the poverty relief landscape.

Handing out food does little to reduce or prevent poverty. The \$20 to \$40 worth of groceries might fill a small gap in a monthly budget, but it doesn't solve the problem of being poor. Giving away food is not a way out of poverty. This is still just a crisis response.

While we are a generous community, what is our community capacity to continue to fill food bank shelves as the food bank lineups continue to grow ever bigger? Are we, as a community, going to be able to keep up with the demand?

Perhaps it's time for the community, those who generously support the food bank, to put the call back out to our community leaders and politicians of every political stripe, of every level of government. Perhaps it's time for creative, collaborative solutions from our political representatives to develop a comprehensive poverty reduction plan that will reduce the demand for food and financial donations every Christmas and throughout the rest of the year.

So the next time any of our community politicians put out the call for the food bank, be sure to respond by supporting the food bank and ask each of us, in return, what we will do to reduce or prevent poverty in our community.

Excerpt taken from The Tri-Cities Now, January 9, 2015 Op Ed



HANDING OUT MEDALS AT THE BC SUMMER GAMES IN NANAIMO, JULY, 2014

I've been talking to teachers who said: "I don't have enough equipment" or "I have 30 students and 15 pieces of equipment, and I don't have enough eyes to make sure that everyone is safe. I need a smaller class size." That's not acceptable.

Response to the Throne Speech,
October 21, 2014

40 BEDS? TOO FEW, SAYS MLA ROBINSON

Noting one in five Canadians will be diagnosed with a mental illness during their lifetime — that's seven million people — provincial Health Minister Terry Lake announced this week plans to open 40 beds at Coquitlam's Riverview Hospital for people with severe addictions and mental illness.

But of the 40 temporary beds, just 14 will be newly created spots while the other 26 will be transfers from the Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addiction.

The number of new spaces isn't enough, said Coquitlam-Maillardville NDP MLA Selina Robinson, whose constituency includes the 102-year-old Riverview site.

"Let's be clear: 14 beds will not be noticed in the Downtown Eastside, the hospital emergency rooms or in use of police services to address frontline mental healthcare issues,"

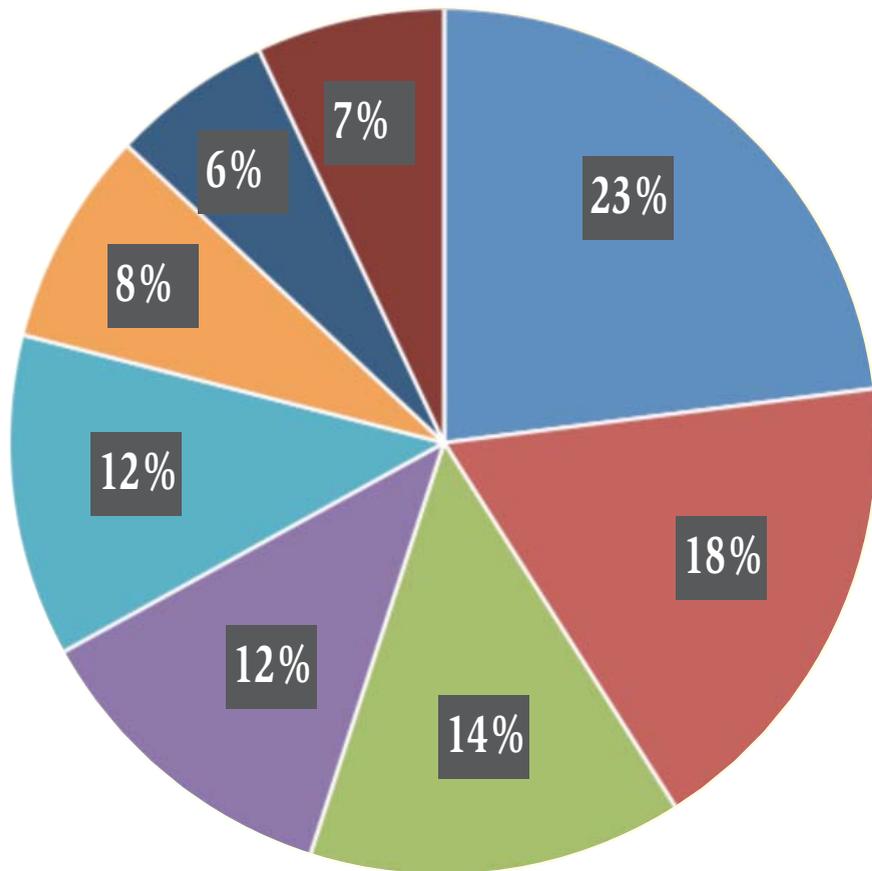
Excerpt taken from the Tri City News, December 18, 2014



TALKING WITH TEACHERS ON THE PICKET LINES, SEPTEMBER, 2014

HOW OUR OFFICE HELPS IN THE COMMUNITY

TOP CONCERNS RAISED IN COQUITLAM-MAILLARDVILLE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE FROM JUNE - DECEMBER 2014



- Social Assistance
- Education
- Transportation
- Health
- Environment
- Housing
- Ministry of Children & Families/Community Living BC
- Other

DROP BY OUR OFFICE

Your constituency office is here to serve you and the community and can assist you in a variety of ways. Some of the services we provide include:

- Provide assistance on a variety of issues including landlord, tenant and other housing issues, public safety, MSP etc.
- Assist in understanding government policies and services,
- Resolve issues you may have with provincial government agencies and assist in navigating through government bureaucracy,
- Attend community events,
- Offer congratulatory and greeting messages,
- Provide government documents, legislation, discussion papers and other web-based forms if you don't have Internet access.

Our doors are open Monday through Friday from 10am until 4:30pm so please drop by and speak with Laura or Sharron to determine how we can help.



I'm here in this House representing my constituents and supporting this bill because Terry Fox understood that a cancer diagnosis did not have to be a death sentence. He knew, and he knew well, that cancer could someday be a diagnosis that people live with, that they don't just die from it. I'm here to honour that.

RESPONSE TO BILL M203 — Terry Fox Day Act,
November 18, 2014

web: www.selinarobinson.ca
 Twitter: @selinarobinson
 facebook: www.facebook.com/selina.d.robinson.7
 Youtube: coquitlam maillardville