

What are the most important federal issues I should be working on?

Your comments

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Please send me regular e-updates

Name

Postal code

Address

Email address

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



THE MMIW INQUIRY REPORT AND UNDRIP

On June 3rd, I attended the release of the report on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's inquiry. It was an emotional and powerful event. As I listened, I reflected back on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings I attended as a witness in Cowichan. Both of these inquiries have shed light in the dark corners of the historic and present relationship between Canada and the Indigenous Peoples of this land. The recommendations of the T&R Commission and the MMIW Inquiry are very similar.

Two of the key recommendations from the MMIW inquiry would help to alleviate the affordable housing crisis and social inequality we have in our communities:

2. *Create a national action plan to ensure equitable access to employment, housing, education, safety, and health care.*

7. *Create a guaranteed annual livable income for all Canadians, taking into account "diverse needs, realities and geographic locations".*

We need to get moving on these recommendations, but it's important that we go further. We must recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples right to manage, maintain, and strengthen their own lands, resources, governance structures, traditions and cultures. The federal riding of Nanaimo-Ladysmith encompasses the traditional unceded territories of the Snaw Naw As (Nanoose), Snuneymuxw, Stz'uminus and Lyackson First Nations. These lands were never surrendered and all of these First Nations are involved in the modern treaty process.

Canada is a signatory nation to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). Our Government must take concrete steps to implement UNDRIP into law in full partnership with Indigenous Peoples. The implementation of UNDRIP is foundational and necessary for Indigenous Peoples to achieve their goal of self-determination and to further reconciliation.

But reconciliation is not the work of governments and institutions alone. Reconciliation is something we need to embrace and strive towards in our day to day lives, as we continue to develop relationships built on authenticity.

IN THE COMMUNITY

1 Presenting the Prime Minister's Awards Certificate of Achievement in Teaching Excellence to Liz McCaw for her Outdoor Kindergarten Program at Departure Bay Eco-School. 2 Welcoming the Haida elders being honoured at VIU's spring convocation ceremonies. 3 Enjoying a pancake breakfast at the Miners' Heritage Picnic in Deverill Square Park. 4 Celebrating the Nanaimo Pride Festival with the TD Team. 5 Applauding the InFrinGinG Dance Festival's Celebration of Indigenous Dance in Maffeo Sutton Park, with festival director Holly Bright, Ilan Goldenblatt and program curator Tsatassaya White. 6 Celebrating Canada Day at Transfer Beach. 7 Learning all about healthy living at Tillicum Lelum's Family Wellness Day. 8 Commemorating the 75th Annual Ceremonial Review of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets of "AMPHION".



Paul Manly

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

It has been an honour and privilege to serve this community as your Member of Parliament since May 6th. So much has happened in such a short time since the by-election. Things have not only been extremely busy for me personally, both in Ottawa and in our riding, but also for our country. The morning after the by-election Prime Minister Trudeau spoke about the results in Nanaimo-Ladysmith demonstrating that voters in Canada were 'preoccupied with climate change'. Within two weeks, both the NDP and Liberals tabled motions declaring a climate emergency, even the Conservatives, in an amendment to the Liberal motion, acknowledged that we are in a climate crisis and that action needed to be taken.

I travelled to Ottawa shortly after the by-election and completed the orientation for new MP's. I was sworn in on Monday May 27th. An hour later, I was sitting in a committee meeting defending Green Party amendments to the budget implementation bill, an omnibus bill full of legislative changes that had nothing to do with the budget, including changes to immigration and refugee policy. That afternoon, I entered parliament for the first time as your MP and had my first question in Question Period. I asked what the government was going to do about the affordable housing and homelessness crisis in Nanaimo-Ladysmith. The next day, sitting hours in the House of Commons were extended to midnight every day, as the government worked to pass as much legislation as possible before the session ended. Two weeks after being sworn in, on June 11th, I opened my constituency office on Dunsmuir Street in downtown Nanaimo, staffed and ready to provide compassionate, caring, non-partisan assistance to the people in the communities I represent.

Over the next four weeks in Ottawa, I engaged in debates on the Accessible Canada Act, climate change, affordable housing, oversight of the Canada Border Services Agency, pardons for past minor cannabis possession offences, the new NAFTA and changes to immigration and refugee policy. I tabled petitions regarding veterans benefits, pay equity for women, water treatment for First Nations communities, trafficking in human organs, affordable housing, animal testing for cosmetics, climate change, reducing poverty, and



a petition about the Westwood Ridges DND lands signed by over 2,500 constituents. I voted 56 times on a number of motions, amendments and bills. Those 56 votes included instances of me voting with every one of the major parties, because good motions, good amendments, and good bills, should be supported no matter who proposes them. I also met with several advocacy and interest groups. I publish weekly reports of my activities in Ottawa on my website at www.PaulManlyMP.ca. Transparency is important to me. I want my constituents to know who I meet with and why, how I vote and why, and what I am doing to represent you in Ottawa.

Paul Manly

PHARMACARE: WE CAN SAVE LIVES AND LOWER OUR HEALTHCARE COSTS



Many of us have a family member or friend who has struggled because they can't afford their medication. Too often people are forced to choose between paying their rent or paying for medication. To avoid becoming homeless, they pay the rent. As a result of not taking their medication, they end up in emergency care, with extra tests, procedures, and doctor's visits to help them recover from a health crisis that could have been avoided.

The ramifications for our communities extend beyond increased healthcare costs, there are social costs we must account for as well. If a patient struggles with mental illness, and doesn't have dependable access to appropriate medications, they are more likely to end up facing unemployment and homelessness. And family members, particularly children, are also negatively impacted.

Canada is the only country with a public health care system that does not include prescription drug coverage. A national Pharmacare program, universal publicly funded drug coverage, would dramatically improve the quality of life for many Canadians, especially seniors, and save vast amounts of tax dollars on emergency and

primary care needs resulting from an inability to afford essential medications. A Pharmacare program would also save employers money because they would not have to include expensive drug plans in employee benefit packages.

Pharmacare is win-win-win for the recipients, the health care system, for employers and taxpayers.

You may have heard that the Liberals have been advised to establish a Pharmacare program, and I hope they take that recommendation. However, their current plan has an insufficient timeline to help Canadians who are struggling now. Coverage of more common and essential medications wouldn't begin until 2022, and a more expanded list of drugs wouldn't be covered until 2027. I will fight to accelerate the implementation of a universal Pharmacare program. I also want the plan to include higher standards for the review of new drugs for approval (like the life saving UBC Therapeutics Initiative). Bulk buying of medications through universal Pharmacare must also be leveraged to drive down the cost of pharmaceuticals.

A critical issue relating to Pharmacare is our international trade agreements. In many of these agreements, such as the CUSMA (the new NAFTA), there are provisions which allow drug companies to extend their patents on biologics, a new class of drugs made with human or animal tissues. This keeps the prices of some important drugs such as insulin artificially high, and costs all of us, patients and taxpayers, a lot of money. I would like to see the terms of drug patents being renegotiated in every trade agreement we have, and ensure that we are far more careful about including drug patents in future trade agreements.

THE NEW NAFTA: PROS AND CONS

The new NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) was signed last November, ratification of the agreement came up for debate in the last weeks of the parliamentary session. As the International Trade and Investment critic in the Green Party shadow cabinet, I read trade agreements and provide insight and advice. There are pros and cons to this new agreement.

I am happy to see that the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions will be removed from the new agreement within three years. ISDS gives foreign corporations extraordinary power to challenge Canadian laws in secretive trade tribunals and has cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. The other provision I am happy to see removed is the Proportionality Clause which binds Canada to export the same proportion of energy it has exported on average over the previous three years. This provision undermined Canadian energy security.

The concerns I have with the new agreement include the extension of patents for biologic drugs from 8 years to 10 years. These extremely expensive drugs are used to treat cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Extending the patents will keep the cost of these prescription drugs higher for longer. The new agreement also undermines Canada's supply management system. It will allow for the importation of dairy products from the USA which contain a type of growth hormone, rBGH, that has been banned in Canada due to health and safety concerns. Another questionable chapter is the Good Regulatory Practices chapter. It is aimed at regulatory harmonization between the three countries but it is not clear whether this will mean improved standards or more de-regulation. The new NAFTA still favours corporations and does not do enough to protect labour, health, consumer and environmental standards, nor does it take the climate crisis into account. We can and must do better.

UPDATE: DND LANDS NEAR WESTWOOD LAKE

Just over a week after I was elected in May, I received a flood of emails, phone calls and social media messages from concerned citizens, calling my attention to a situation that was developing over the recreational use of the Department of National Defense (DND) lands near Westwood Lake and the Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary. Residents and visitors to our area have been using some very popular trails that wind through the land in the buffer zone for decades. I also received letters of complaint from residents about a noticeable increase in noise from the firing range.

These lands have been owned by the DND since the 1920's, and operate as a large buffer zone to the DND firing range. I appreciate the value of having good training facilities for the Canadian Forces, and recognize the role the Nanaimo firing range has in this. My own grandfather, Doug Manly, trained there during World War II.

In early May, the DND sent out a notice that these lands are off-limits, and warned hikers, mountain bikers, trail runners, and other users that they would be trespassing if found on DND lands, and could be subject to fines and even arrest. They gave mountain bikers just a few days notice to remove any bridges or other trail infrastructure from the land, before the DND took them out.

This notice upset many Nanaimo area residents who enjoy these trails. Many of the trail users were not aware that they were trespassing while using the trails. This set the wheels in motion for a petition asking that the DND negotiate with residents to find a way to allow for the continued use of the land for recreational purposes. Thousands of people have signed this petition.

On May 17, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Defence, Harjit Singh Sajjan, explaining the situation. I have since spoken to the Minister of Defence several times, and had a meeting with Serge Cormier, the parliamentary secretary to the Minister. At the meeting we looked at maps, topography and photos, discussed the noise levels, the growing residential areas in proximity, and the popular parks bordering three sides of the DND lands. The Minister and his secretary were sympathetic to the concerns of the citizens of our riding. They understand that the city has grown and is now encroaching on the range. On June 14, I presented the petition in the House of Commons, and made a statement.

Here is where things stand right now:

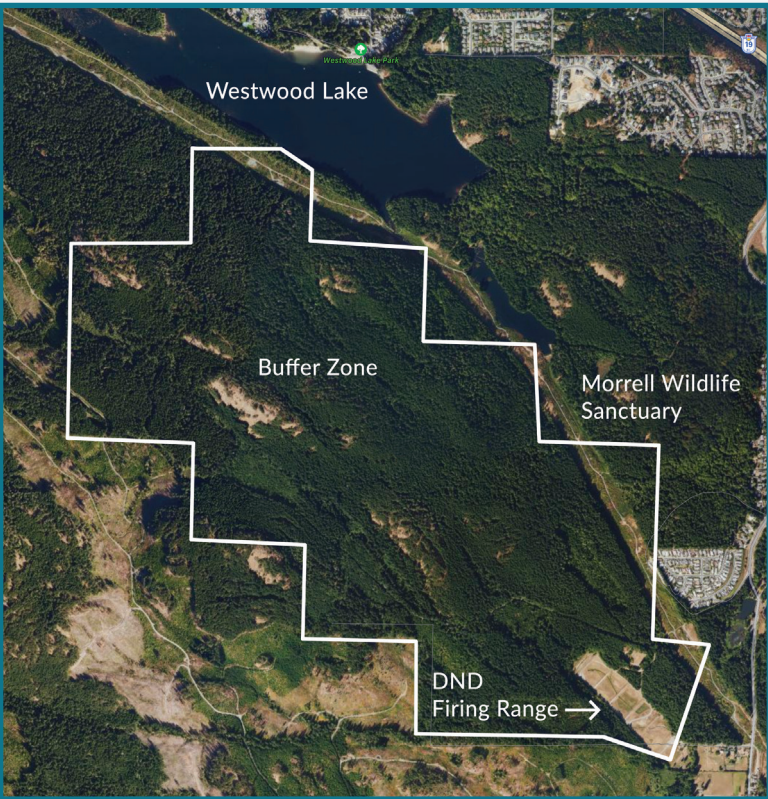
Due to past funding issues, the rifle range did not have proper signs, fences or enforcement to keep people out. This led to a situation where local residents felt comfortable using the DND land as recreational land, and in many cases were unaware that they were even on DND land. The DND are working on correcting that situation, so while people have been using the area for recreation, that can't continue in their view. Safety is paramount.

The reason for the sudden notice in May about the DND lands being off limits, is because the DND Volks range in Coquitlam was closed early this year due to safety concerns. Military and RCMP units are now coming to Nanaimo from the lower mainland to practice at the Nanaimo DND range, greatly increasing its use. This is the reason for the noticeable increase in noise from the firing range.

The safety buffer can't be compromised during training, and scheduling recreational use of areas within the buffer would be difficult and likely lead to unsafe situations. There may be areas of DND land outside of the buffer template that could be accessed, but that will need to be reviewed by DND.

When I discussed the long-term idea of moving the range I was told that DND is in the process of doing a study on all of its infrastructure in BC. They are aware that the Nanaimo range is being encroached upon and will likely need to be closed or moved in the future. They appreciated my suggestions of potentially working with the forest companies to move the range to an area well past Second Lake that could be secured by gates to ensure safety. They may end up closing the Nanaimo range and moving training to another area of the province. They were not at liberty to discuss what was being contemplated in the as yet uncompleted review.

Many citizens feel it would be ideal for the Westwood Ridges to be added to a system of parks so people can enjoy this beautiful area for recreation. This is going to require some long-range consultation and planning for DND with the Snuneymuxw First Nation, the City and Regional District of Nanaimo and user groups and citizens who want to see this area protected. People who are interested in seeing that happen should continue writing letters and signing petitions. I tabled petitions with over 2,000 signatures in the week before the House of Commons adjourned for the summer.



COOPERATIVE HOUSING IS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The increased cost of housing, and lack of supply, in our communities has created widespread housing insecurity. It's impacting seniors, individuals with disabilities, and people living on fixed incomes. And the struggle to secure housing is not isolated to those vulnerable groups. Most of us know someone affected by the housing crisis, because the impacts are so far reaching.

In Question Period on May 27th, hours after being sworn in, I asked what emergency measures the government was prepared to take to deal with the housing crisis. On June 5th, I had the opportunity to follow up on my question and speak on this issue in the House of Commons, and I will continue to pursue it.

We know about the crisis. It's time to focus on solutions. Successful long-term solutions will require a multi-faceted approach. In this short space, I'd like to focus on one piece of the puzzle, a category of affordable housing that is completely absent in Nanaimo-Ladysmith -- cooperative housing.

Cooperative housing has provided generations of Canadians with secure, affordable homes. A typical "co-op" is a non-profit housing corporation. Residents purchase shares when they move in. An elected board of directors, comprised of residents, administers the co-op. Resident shareholders do not accrue equity in their home but they pay monthly housing fees (rent) below market value and have the security that ownership provides. Cooperative housing is common in Canada's larger cities, where historically there has been a greater need for it.

According to the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, there are more than 2200 housing co-ops across the country. Two hundred and seventy five of them are here in BC. Most were built between 1970 and 1990, when federal programs encouraged a rapid expansion of co-op housing. The need for affordable housing is driving a new wave of co-op development, and while the funding models and government partnerships may look different, the principles remain the same.

When it comes to cooperative housing we can glean tremendous insight from the decades of operational knowledge and financial management that successful organizations have employed. And much of that knowledge and insight is close to home and readily accessible. In Vancouver cooperative housing is being developed at a pace not seen in decades. If it can be done there, why not here?

To learn more about cooperative housing I encourage you to visit www.chfcanada.coop.

If you have a story to share about how the housing crisis is impacting you or your family I would like to hear your concerns. Please contact my office so we can gather these stories, and ensure impacted individuals and families have a voice in Ottawa.



My staff and I are here to provide caring, compassionate, non-partisan service for all.

NO POSTAGE REQUIRED

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