

Yvonne Jones

Labrador Journal

Member of Parliament for Labrador



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MP Yvonne Jones being welcomed to the House of Commons by Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and MP Gerry Byrne

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure I offer you my first of many newsletters. The *Labrador Journal* will give me an opportunity to share with you our journey together as your Member of Parliament for Labrador.



Newfoundland and Labrador Federal Liberal Caucus: L-R MP Scott Andrews, MP Judy Foote, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, MP Scott Sims, MP Gerry Byrne, and MP Yvonne Jones

It has been a very busy few months since I was first elected and this is just the beginning of great things to come. I've had the honour to ask my first question in the House of Commons on the serious Search and Rescue issues that face Labradorians. I have been holding the government to account on issues affecting all regions and all people of Labrador.

At our annual summer retreat I was appointed as Chair of the Federal Newfoundland and Labrador caucus, which will allow me to stay connected with other Members of Parliament in our province to share ideas and work for Newfoundland and Labrador in the House of Commons. In addition, I was recently appointed Vice-Chair to the Public Accounts Committee of Canada. Closer to home, it was a pleasure to get to many locations in Labrador over the past months and the warm, enthusiastic welcome I received was invigorating.

I want to thank everyone for their hospitality and input into the Labrador agenda. Please continue to share your ideas and concerns with me and my staff.

Yvonne Jones,
MP Labrador

Visit My New Website

I have a great new website that I hope you take an opportunity to have a good look at. You will find our most recent press releases there, along with links to YouTube, and video clips in the House of Commons and at various events. As well, there are links to Facebook and Twitter, where you can add your voice to the many concerns that affect Labradorians every day. Please visit it here:

www.yvonnejones.liberal.ca

Muskrat Falls Project

A significant piece of Labrador history is being carved out in central Labrador, whether we like it or not. Muskrat Falls will never be the same again. The land has been scraped and cleared, forever marking this moment in time as "the days of the project."



Muskrat Falls, Labrador.

Men and women from across Labrador want to be a part of this monumental project, but walls and hurdles are still stopping some people from accessing the good jobs "across the river." Issues exist over fair-hiring practices and accusations of unfair treatment of Aboriginal workers. My office fields calls on a daily basis of these and other concerns. I fully believe that we can get our fair share of this project, but like everything we have in Labrador, it is a struggle. I won't rest until we gain the rightful benefits from all of the developments in Labrador including the Muskrat Falls Project. That will happen with your help. Contact my office and tell us your story. We are here for you and we are fighting for you.

Changing Attitudes



Yvonne with Mariam and Bob Lyall

In a recent article of Atlantic Business Magazine, I stated that there needs to be a mindset change throughout Labrador. Growing up here and particularly in my public life, I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet smart, educated, and skilled Labradorians from all walks of life, business owners, community leaders, energetic youth and so many more.

Labrador is evolving. The landscape is changing and our way of life is changing. I believe it's time for the attitude to change. It is time for the Provincial and the Federal Government to change the way they work with Labrador and change the way they view Labrador. When I was first elected to provincial politics in 1996, I knew then that the attitudes had to change. I have always worked with this thought in mind, *you have to engage people directly to find out what is the exact issue*. You have to sit down and listen. You have to create partnerships that include private industry and governments. Labradorians are indeed smart, hard-working people and deserve to be treated not only as tax-paying residents but as partners in a land full of natural and human resources.

Problems Facing CFB Goose Bay

I am disappointed that Serco has handed out pink slips in Goose Bay. I am even more disappointed in the Harper government's disregard for the needs of both the base and people of Goose Bay. In January I met with the Mayor of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, his delegation and both Liberal leader Justin Trudeau and Retired General Andrew Leslie. It is obvious that the Harper government is not willing to hear about the issues facing CFB Goose Bay and I am proud that Liberals are stepping up. I will continue to work towards job stability, long term planning commitments, and stability for CFB Goose Bay.



Blair Gillis



Unfortunately we recently lost a great contributor to Labrador, Blair Gillis. We benefited from the innovative leadership of Blair for decades. He was a dedicated member of the community of Cartwright and the mayor. Blair sat on many committees and boards to better this great land that he fell in love with so many years ago. The South Coast of Labrador has forever been changed by his great work. Blair, we thank you for all of the love, dedication and passion you showed for this Big Land, you will be truly missed.

George E. Roberts



This past summer George E. Roberts passed away, leaving a hole in the hearts of many on Labrador's Southeast Coast. George E. Roberts was a leader of the community of Norman Bay. He was a hardworking man who spent countless hours lobbying for the needs of the people in his community, including helping to acquire a new school for the students of Norman Bay. Mr. Roberts is someone who showed true leadership within the community and will be greatly missed.

Seal Day

The House of Commons is currently debating a bill that will only permit sealing observers to observe the hunt within one kilometer of hunting activity. The motion is meant to ensure that both hunters and observers are safe while on the ice. We continue to support the seal hunt; it is a traditional industry in which we continue to depend upon for food and clothing. The seal hunt was once a good revenue provider to families however, with falling markets and the exploitation of the hunt by international animal rights lobbyists, the industry is not what it once was. I want to encourage people to promote the hunt- tell our story of dependence on the seal. A recent poll on the industry showed that 70% of Canadians are in favour of the seal hunt in some form and oppose the banning of commercial seal products, whereas only 22% are against the industry. This past year I participated in Seal Day on the Hill and held a seal fashion show at Labrador Night in Ottawa.



Yvonne at the Parliament seal fashion show



Emily Normore, Ella Ryland, Sadie Howell and Yvonne



Yvonne and MHA Randy Edmunds visiting in Natuashish



John Earle, Yvonne, William Roberts and Derrick Earle

Hydro Rates in Labrador



The excavated site at Muskrat Falls

Labrador's abundance of natural resources, including the Hydro-mega projects, have always attracted much attention from abroad and Labradorians have reluctantly welcomed the progress and development of the region. It's when Labradorians don't see benefits from these projects that creates this divide for our people-and it is happening again. The Muskrat Falls Project is currently being built in the heart of the Big Land and yet Labradorians are just seeing small crumbs of benefits from the project. To add insult to injury, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (NLHydro) would like to increase the Hydro rates 25% in many parts of Labrador and .9 % on the North and South Coast, who already pay some of the most expensive electricity rates in the province.

It's an outrageous proposal by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and I will do everything in my power to ensure this rate-hike is quashed. I have applied for and have been granted intervener status at PUB's public hearings, scheduled to take place this year. You can help! Add your name to our letter of opposition/petition that I will be presenting at the public hearings. Contact my office to find out more information on how you can help fight back against higher hydro rates for Labradorians.

Let's Get Cooking! Recipes from Labrador

Barb's Muffins

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 3 teaspoons of baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon orange flavour
- 1 cup of orange juice
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup of cooking oil
- 1 cup of partridge berries
- Zest from 1 orange

Preheat oven to 425 F. In a bowl mix the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Take a measuring cup and mix the orange flavour, orange juice, egg and cooking oil. Pour the wet mixture into the bowl and mix with a spoon. Add partridge berries and orange zest. Pour batter into lined muffin tins. Bake for 18 minutes. Makes 12 muffins.

Canada Post

Canada Post dropped the hammer on the country's postal services and Labrador is wrapped in the cuts. This is a profit driven move by the Crown Corporation. Canada Post does not receive financial assistance from the Federal Government; however they do have a mandate to serve the postal needs of Canada. As a result of Canada Post's desire to save more profit, many small post offices are now under review to have hours and days of operation cut, and larger centers are being told to have no more door to door delivery. We have had several meeting with Canada Post and I have met with a number of workers and communities impacted. We have also circulated petitions, so that we can continue to push back on Canada Post. We are also calling on the Federal Government to step in and ensure that Canada Post meets its mandate to Canadians. Look for the petition, sign it, speak up and stop the profit gouging by Canada Post.

Shrimp Allocations

The recent science released on shrimp stocks in Areas 5 and 6 indicates a decline in stock. This shrimp fishing area is directly adjacent to Labrador communities, yet we access and fish less than 10% of the stock. As Department of Fisheries and Oceans, science, fishermen and the government look at reductions in quota, we may be looking at devastation. Labrador's quota is so small, especially for the inshore and for Aboriginal quotas, that we cannot sustain further cuts. To do so would leave inshore fishing enterprises unprofitable, it would impact companies like Torngat and LFSC who depend on revenues from offshore shrimp to create onshore jobs, and it would leave Aboriginal Governments without investment capital for their communities. I will be requesting that Labrador be exempt from all cuts and that the principle of adjacency be upheld. A few years ago the federal Harper government opted to throw out adjacency for what they call a LIFO policy (Last In/First Out). Following this policy will ensure cuts in quota are directed towards Labrador. Meetings are currently scheduled with fisheries Minister Gail Shea, we will work together to protect Labrador's shrimp stock.



Yvonne in beautiful Nain

Congratulations!



On November 16th, 2013 Tamarack Golf Club of Labrador City was awarded Golf Course of the Year by Golf Newfoundland and Labrador. Not only was the golf course recognized, but an outstanding employee was as well. Pat LaCour was awarded Employee of the Year, recognizing her hard work and dedication over the past 30 years. Congratulations to Tamarack Golf Club and Pat LaCour! We are very proud, and many thanks for your continued hard work!

Wabush and the Closing of Scully Mines

The decision by Cliffs to idle Scully Mines in Wabush came as a shocking blow to many people in the Labrador West Region. Nearly 400 direct union jobs will be lost and another 100 jobs in management and other operations. This decision is leaving hundreds of families scrambling for other employment in the region. The full impact of the loss is continuing to be measured by the town, union and government. There are many financial implications for the people affected as the company retained a younger work force with no eligibility for retirement. Workers will receive the 12 week benefit package in lieu of job loss as was previously negotiated by the Steelworkers union. To date no other offers have been made. While the plant goes through the idle shutdown some workers will be retained at the mine for a longer period of time. The duration of employment is still uncertain.

We are hopeful that there will be interest for other operators and will continue to promote the reserves and mine itself, along with the community and region. Cliffs has said they will entertain a sale. I have reached out to all other mining operations in the area asking that they give priority for new jobs to displaced skilled trades people and labourers from Wabush mines. I have followed this request up with meetings with Alderon, IOC, LIM and Tata. The reception by all companies to help retain the work force has been positive. In addition I have asked Cliffs to look at a bridging program for longer term employees to help them qualify for a company pension package. If people in the region have questions or need assistance please contact us. We have been helping a lot of people to access EI programs to help them through this difficult period.

A Labrador Way of Life

My dear friends, as we continue on this journey, I will bring you stories of people that make up our beautiful Labrador. In this issue I invite you to meet Mr. Don Davis. A hard-working Labradorian that knows a thing or two about life in the Big Land. Don and his daughter Annette sat down for a chat and shared these words.



Don with Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau

Mr. Davis was born in Cartwright in 1937 and lived in the area for many years, before moving to Happy Valley-Goose Bay. "I hated fishing and hunting when I was growing up." My father was in the commercial business and we had to work from dawn till dusk." But after having settling down with a family Mr. Davis enjoyed the outdoors more. "Anytime I went to North River

was a good memory. I loved to catch some salmon and a few trout."

Mr. Davis married Florence Tippet after moving to Goose Bay, and together they have seven children, ten grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Annette asked her dad what he thought about growing up in those days compared to now? "I saw it before we became Canadians, I've seen hard times, today as a Canadian there is money to help families and so on. There was nothing back then. It's easier for the young person today."

And just as Mr. Davis was finishing, he had these words of advice for young people. "Get a trade, show up to work, and oh yes, save a little money." Wise words from a wise man. A true Labradorian we can all relate to.

Learn a New Word

How to say thank you in three languages:
Tshinaskamatan Innamen (Innu)
Nakummek Inuituk (Inuit)
Merci French



Yvonne with former Prime Minister Jean Chretien



Yvonne with the band at the Fish Fry event in Goose Bay

Yvonne visited the Nain Char Processing plant with MHA Randy Edmunds. They had a great time meeting with all of the workers



Left: Yvonne with Marcus and Myron Roberts



Right: Yvonne with MPs Sean Casey and Carolyn Bennett for Pink Shirt Day



Left: Yvonne wood splitting with Leslie and Clarissa Belbin



Right: Yvonne with Christine Baikie in Nain

Tell Me What You Think!

What do you feel are the top three issues facing Labrador right now?

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CFB Goose Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydro Rates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canada Post | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishery Quotas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Shortage | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Let's Keep in Touch!

Name: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Birthdate (DD/MM/YY) _____

I would like to receive email updates from my M.P.

Comments:



Canada Day in Wabush with Katelyn, Summer, Laura and Jayden. Daughters of local fire fighters Bill Courtney and Trevor Goodyear

Early Agreements Between Nalcor Energy and Scallop Harvesters

I am happy to hear that an agreement was reached between Nalcor Energy and the Scallop harvesters of Newfoundland and Labrador's Straits of Belle Isle Region. Working out an appropriate agreement is vital to provide financial compensation for our fishers impacted by the undersea pipeline. I am pleased that Nalcor should invoke the suggestions I made in my EIS submission. I look forward to hearing the details and distribution of the 2.6 million dollar agreement and I hope that this it is adequate in satisfying the needs of the scallop harvesters.



Mr. Shiwak of Rigolet, Labrador with Yvonne



Yvonne with Gold Medalist Clara Hughes in Nain Labrador

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

I have been one of many people in the country calling on the Government to do an inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada. This is supported by the international community, all Aboriginal governments and women's organizations. To date 825 Aboriginal girls and women have gone missing or been murdered in Canada. This is not acceptable by any human standard and therefore must be changed. In Labrador we have lost two beautiful young women to tragic murders, for no reason. Bernice Rich was brutally killed in Sheshatshiu and her body found June 14th, 2013. On February 13th, 2014 Loretta Saunders went missing and was later found dead on February 26th, 2014. The loss of Bernice Rich of Natuashish and Loretta Saunders of Goose Bay has shaken families everywhere, especially at home in Labrador.



Bernice Rich, murdered at age 21



Loretta Saunders, murdered at age 26

It is with deep sadness that I offer my condolences to both families. I ask every Labradorian to speak out against this violence and work with me to make this inquiry happen.



Sandy Kershaw, Judy Boisey, Jean Crane, Yvonne, Nancy Hamel, and Paula Dawe



Bill and Trevor Larkham with Yvonne

Add Your Story

Do you have a story or photo you would like to share? Send it along to Yvonne.Jones@parl.gc.ca and you just might find your pictures and articles in upcoming issues of *Labrador Journal*.

Muskrat Falls Project Contact List

UNION:

Boilmakers, Local 203	709-229-7958
Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, Local 1	709-747-5679
Elevator Constructors, Local 125	902-450-5067
Hotel & Restaurant Workers, Local 779	709-726-6402
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1620	709-753-6071
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2230	709-895-3764
Insulators and Asbestos Workers, Local 137	709-596-1403
Iron Workers, Local 764	709-747-2111
Labourers, Local 1208	709-726-6256
Carpenters, Local 579	709-364-5410
Millwrights, Local 1009	709-364-5410
Operating Engineers, Local 904	709-747-9040
Painters & Allied Trades, Local 512	709-579-5908
Sheet Metal Workers, Local 512	709-754-1620
Teamsters, Local 855	709-579-5706
United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local 740	709-747-2249

COMPANIES:

Nalcor (Matthew Pike)	709-896-6793
Opron Construction (Simon Leblanc)	514-743-3342
(Elaine Arsenault)	514-743-3342
Johnson's Construction Ltd. (Deon Hamlyn)	709-639-2303
Labrador Catering Ltd. Partnership (Carlos Presado)	709-685-5980
Speuata Security Inc. (Frank Walsh)	709-738-3535
Innu-Med (Chris Lane)	709-682-2672
Liannu Ltd. Partnership (Lorne Bennett)	709-782-4240
Bakers Hughes Drilling System	709-748-4900
Direct Horizontal Drilling	brian.s@directhorizontal.com
C&T Enterprise	709-931-2191
Astaldi	709-896-4470

Working on Your Behalf

There are many issues facing the people of Labrador: from jobs, to homelessness, we are continuing to make a stand and fight on your behalf to ensure a better life for all of us. Here are just some of the things we have been working on:

- Housing/Homelessness
- Shrimp Quotas
- Immigration Problems
- Hydro Rates/Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Maintaining Jobs at CFB Goose Bay
- Canada Post Services
- Mealey Mountains National Park
- Torngat National Park

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Yvonne Jones, MP

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