



MP Finley deceptive: Ignatieff

December 5, 2010

Re: **Bill C-428**

Recently MP Diane Finley sent letters to households in Haldimand-Norfolk which spread misinformation about the position of myself and local Liberal candidate, Bob Speller, on Bill C-428, the Private Members' Bill that would amend residency requirements for Old Age Security (OAS) benefits.

This bill is proposed by Liberal MP Ruby Dhalla. While the intent of the bill — to increase assistance to new Canadians — is admirable, I have made it clear our party cannot support it.

Lowering the residency requirement for entitlement to OAS from 10 years to three would be prohibitively expensive and only provide assistance to a very small number of Canadians. There are a number of support systems and legal requirements already available to assist new Canadians.

Human Resources Minister Finley knows Bill C-428 is not supported by the Liberal Party of Canada, or by Speller. Yet she has sent this taxpayer-funded letter to thousands of residents, calling the bill a "Liberal proposal" and voicing her opposition to it.

Canadians expect their government to work with them to help solve the challenges they face. It is unfortunate they have a Conservative government so preoccupied with trying to boost its political fortunes through division and deception that Canadian families are being left behind.

The Liberal Party places great importance on retirement security. The measures we have committed to are compassionate and fiscally responsible. We would implement a Supplementary Canada Pension Plan to allow Canadians to voluntarily invest funds in our national pension. We would also give employees with stranded pensions following bankruptcy the option of growing their pension assets through the Canada Pension Plan. We would protect those on long-term disability by giving them preferred status as creditors in case of bankruptcy.

Haldimand-Norfolk residents should ask Finley what her government is proposing to help Canadians retire with dignity. They should ask what her government has done to halt local unemployment — to support farmers and locked-out steel workers, to stand up for Bick's Pickles workers, and to finally take action on the unresolved situation in Caledonia.

Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada

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