

## Prime Minister Harper Shuffles Federal Cabinet

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced yesterday significant changes to his cabinet. This is the second re-organization of the federal cabinet in 7 months. The cabinet remains the same size with 32 Ministers, including 25 male and 7 female. Geographically, the distribution of cabinet posts per province changes very little, 10 for Ontario, 6 for Quebec, 6 Alberta, 5 for B.C., 1 for Saskatchewan, and one each for Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland.

Now that the Prime Minister has set his team in place for the fall session of Parliament, he must consider what the next priorities will be for the Conservative minority government and when he will announce them.

Parliament is scheduled to resume sitting on September 17, however, speculation continues that the current session will be prorogued until after the October 10 Ontario provincial election (see Ottawa Update, Vol. 5 – No. 4). If the Prime Minister prorogues Parliament, it would enable the Conservatives to analyze the outcome of the Ontario election before unveiling a new agenda. A full listing the Conservative cabinet may be viewed at:

<http://www.conservative.ca/EN/4568/>

## Key Cabinet Changes for Credit Union System

### Hon. Jim Prentice, P.C., M.P., Minister of Industry



(Calgary Centre-North, AB) Mr. Prentice was elected to the House of Commons in 2004 and was re-elected in 2006. He had served as Minister Indian Affairs and Northern Development since 2006. A lawyer by profession, Mr. Prentice has

specialized in property rights and has focused on relocations, environmental protection suits and restricted development areas. He also served as a Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission of Canada for 10 years and is recognized as an expert in land claims

negotiations. Mr. Prentice is a graduate of the University of Alberta and Dalhousie University. Canadian Central works with Industry Canada on policy development in the areas of competition, bankruptcy and insolvency. The Canada Small Business Loans Financing Act and Consumer Measures Committee initiatives are also areas where Canadian Central interacts with the department.



### Hon. Gerry Ritz, P.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (Battlefords-Lloydminster, SK)

Mr. Ritz was first elected to Parliament in 1997. He was re-elected in 2000, 2004 and 2006. Most recently, he was Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism).

He was also Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. Mr. Ritz has run his own farming operation, owned and operated a general contracting business and co-owned a weekly newspaper. He was actively involved in the Rosetown, SK Economic Development Committee. Canadian Central works closely with Agriculture Canada on many files, including the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program and the Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act.



### Hon. Diane Ablonczy, P.C., M.P., Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism) (Calgary-Nose Hill, AB)

Ms. Ablonczy was first elected to the House of Commons in 1993 and re-elected in subsequent elections. Most recently she was Parliamentary Secretary to the

Minister of Finance. Ms. Ablonczy has a varied professional and business background, which includes teaching elementary and junior high school, managing a grain farm operation and building a successful law

practice. Ms. Ablonczy holds teaching and law degrees from the University of Calgary. Canadian Central will work with the Minister on issues related to credit union lending to small and medium-sized enterprises.

### Three Federal By-elections on Horizon

On September 17, by-elections will be held in the Quebec ridings of Outremont, Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot and Roberval-Lac-Saint-Jean. The by-elections are being held as a result of the resignations of Liberal MP Jean Lapierre, BQ MP Yvan Loubier and BQ MP Michel Gauthier, respectively. These by-elections will also serve as a barometer for the Conservative government as it needs to grow in Quebec if it is to achieve a majority government in the next general election.

There are three other ridings in the country that are currently vacant as a result of the resignations of sitting MPs: Toronto Centre in Ontario, which was held by Liberal MP Bill Graham; Willowdale in Ontario which was held by Jim Peterson; and Vancouver Quadra in BC which was held by Stephen Owen. The first by-election will need to be called for Toronto Centre. The Prime Minister has until January 2, 2008 to set a date for that by-election.

### Appointments in Financial Services Sector

The **Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc. (CLHIA)** announced on July 10 the appointment of **Frank Swedlove** as President of the Association. Mr. Swedlove joined CLHIA having spent last year as President of the Financial Action Task Force, the international body responsible for setting standards in the fight against global money laundering and terrorist financing.

Mr. Swedlove had a distinguished career at the federal Department of Finance, serving lastly as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Financial Sector Policy Branch. Mr. Swedlove was the principal advisor to several Ministers of Finance regarding policy development at the federal level on financial institutions and Canadian financial markets playing a key role in issues throughout the sector and in international trade in financial services. Mr. Swedlove has a strong knowledge of the credit union

system having dealt with credit union system leaders on various issues.

On July 19, **Insurance Bureau of Canada** announced that **Mark Yakabuski** will become President and Chief executive Officer as of January 1, 2008 replacing Mr. Stan Griffin. Mr. Yakabuski, who is currently Vice-President, Ontario and Federal Affairs, has been with IBC since 1993 and served as Director of Government Relations and in the Policy Development Division.

These announcements follow this spring's appointment of **Nancy Hughes Anthony** as President and CEO of the **Canadian Bankers' Association**. Ms. Hughes Anthony had served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Prior to her arrival at the Canadian Chamber in 1998, Ms. Hughes Anthony gained senior experience in the federal and provincial governments as well as the private sector, having served as a federal deputy minister, a senior advisor to the government of Prince Edward Island and as a corporate vice-president. She is also one of the first graduates of the Directors Education Program from the Corporate Governance College.

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