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Government and Regulatory Affairs

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More Government Compass after the Speech from the Throne in early November



Government Compass-“your guide to where Canada is headed”



Your Guide to the Canadian Ministry

Prime Minister Harper chose his Cabinet October 30, 2008 for the upcoming session of Parliament and beyond. The Cabinet is larger than the last and includes a few new faces from Canada's North, Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Quebec, Alberta, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The shape of Cabinet has expanded – it now includes first time MPs and three have been given key posts. Lisa Raiit from Burlington, On is the **Minister of Natural Resources**, Leona Aglukkaq from Nunavut is now the **Minister of Health** and Gail Shea **Minister of Fisheries and Oceans** from Prince Edward Island.

Diane Finley has reassumed responsibility for **HRSDC (which she held briefly in 2006)** and Rona Ambrose the **Labour** portfolio. These two posts are of great importance to our trades through support for training delivery, social policy and

federal legislation related to work for all Canadians.

With a minority government we can expect Cabinet to make as many decisions as possible without involving a less than reassuring House of Commons. Our message to Cabinet needs to focus on the importance of construction's voice in the Canadian economy.

Issues that are important to us, like the Canada Labour Code, Federal Fair Wage Act, and the Interprovincial Red Seal Program all deserve our focus.

Since only 59% of us voted in the last election we have to make sure Cabinet is responsive to our issues– we need to ensure (even though Canadians don't appear to be engaged) that Cabinet receives our message.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty retains his post – the Liberals and NDP came out swinging saying he deserved to be fired for his

handling of (or lack of) the financial crisis. It may be a blessing in disguise for the Building Trades having Minister Flaherty stay on. He understands how important equal tax treatment for construction workers is to our members. It remains to be seen if and when the Department of Finance will act on this file.

For a full listing of the new Ministry see http://pm.gc.ca/eng/medi_a.asp?id=2290

National NEWSFLASH

- **Bruce Power to conduct Environmental Assessment for nuclear generating station in Haldimand-Norfolk**
- **Suncor reports increased net profit in first 9 months of 08 but also announces capital spending decline going forward**
- **Skilled Trades Week runs Monday November 3 to 10th. Get involved in your local community!**