

Hon. Maria Minna
Member of Parliament
Beaches – East York



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Députée
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Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion and Beaches-East York MP Maria Minna Tour Local Social Services Agency

TORONTO – June 5, 2007 - Federal Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion, his wife Janine Krieger, and Beaches - East York MP Maria Minna visited the Cecelia Murphy Building. This centre is operated by Neighbourhood Link Support Services, which provides services to seniors and programs in health, employment and housing. The visit included a tour of the seniors' complex, the child care facility and the system of solar thermal collectors.

The tour of the building's system of 60 flat plate solar thermal collectors was given by Alex Winch, President of Mondial Energy Inc. Mondial Energy is a local utility company that owns and maintains the solar thermal collectors providing a cheap and environmentally friendly means of heating the building's hot water supply. Funding for Mondial to install the panels was made available through the previous Liberal government's Renewable Energy Deployment Initiative (REDI) established by Stéphane Dion and later cancelled by the current Conservative government.



Left to right – Mary McGowan, Alex Winch, Maria Minna, and Stéphane Dion

“Our alternative energy projects like this one are innovative financial solutions that enable Canadian investment in renewables, build local skilled jobs, knowledge and infrastructure while we lower carbon emissions,” said Winch. “We are encouraged by the continual leadership and commitment to these innovative projects demonstrated by political leaders like Stéphane Dion and Maria Minna.”

Neighbourhood Link and Senior Link provide valuable services to over 6500 clients each year. The complex at 11 Coatsworth Crescent offers 174 housing units for independent seniors, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions carbon dioxide by 40.3 tonnes annually. The building was recently featured as one of the “Green Buildings” by Doors Open Toronto.

Both Dion and Minna were impressed with the centre and the work it is doing. Dion commended the partnership between Neighbourhood Link and Mondial Energy.

“[Neighbourhood Link’s] partnership with Mondial Energy demonstrates how community organizations and businesses can work together to provide excellent social services while promoting sustainability,” he said.



Stéphane Dion and Maria Minna meet with local seniors

He also complimented the citizens of Beaches - East York on choosing Maria to be their voice in Ottawa.

“Agencies and projects like these are at risk under Stephen Harper,” Dion told the seniors. “This is why I am grateful that the voters of Beaches-East York have time and again sent Maria Minna to Ottawa to fight for progressive community initiatives like these. Maria has consistently been one of the most vocal advocates for important issues such as senior care, child care, and the environment.”

The message from the early learning and child care facility located at the complex was loud and clear to bring back a National Early Learning and Child Care program that offers real choice to Canadian families. Dion re-affirmed that Liberal commitment to the operators and families who use the facility.

Minna applauded Neighborhood Link and Mondial Energy for their accomplishments in social services and sustainability, and she praised Dion as an avid leader of projects such as those at the Cecelia Murphy Building.

“It is crucial to have a central government that understands and supports the needs of our community. Canada is moving in the wrong direction under the current Conservative government and we need Stéphane Dion as our Prime Minister so community organizations and innovative projects like these get the support they need to do good work,” she said.