



For Immediate Release
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Harpers Way or the Highway: Dr. Dhalla will vote NO to a two-year extension of Canada's deployment in Afghanistan

Ottawa - Why is Mr. Harper insulting the intelligence of Canadians by imposing a debate tonight? He has called for a two-year extension of Canada's deployment in Afghanistan, when the mission does not expire for another 9 months.

Dr. Ruby Dhalla, Member of Parliament for Brampton-Springdale, questions the rushed motives of the Conservatives Government.

She states, "Since forming government Prime Minister Harper has shutout the media, shutout Members of Parliament and will now shutout Canadians on this important issue. I support the troops and our original mission objectives to achieve peace and stability for Afghan women and children. However, a decision to extend the mission does not need to be made months in advance when the role and objectives of the mission are evolving on a daily basis. Canadians are interested in this issue and deserve to have their voices heard."

Dr. Dhalla asserts, "For his own personal gains and political ambition, Mr. Harper has decided to use our Canadian troops as political pawns. By not providing parliamentarians with information about the objectives and nature of the extension of the mission he is in essence undermining the democratic process."

Our country maintains an international reputation as the champion of human rights, of peace, stability, democracy, and diplomacy. These are the values that the Liberal party and previous Liberal Governments have always promoted and worked with Canadians to achieve. It is unfortunate that Mr. Harper has decided to compromise our international reputation for his cheap political tactics.

Dr. Dhalla adds, "The Prime Minister may muzzle and control his caucus but he cannot muzzle Canadians and Opposition Members." She adds, "I cannot vote yes

with a clear conscience. It is an insult to have us cornered and coerced into a vote."

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