



Photo: T. Haroun

Philip Toone was first elected to the Canadian House of Commons in the 2011 election.

Philip Toone getting ready for a fall election

O — **Thierry Haroun**
PERCÉ: - The Gaspé and Magdalen Islands NDP MP, Philip Toone is getting ready for the general election that will take place next October and things are looking good for him as the Eastern Quebec FTQ Union has announced that it is supporting him.

The Regional Counselor of the FTQ, Alain Harrison, told CHNC radio in New Carlisle that his union will support him. "Mr. Philip Toone did a great job especially during the fight against the reform of the Employment Insurance Program. He has our support." In an interview with SPEC, Mr. Toone admitted that he had heard about it from the radio station. "It's an honour for my team and me. It's always appreciated when people recognize our work over the years. I did indeed work very closely with the FTQ union concerning the reform of the Federal program. This support is important and comes at the right time because we have to get the Conservatives out of power once and for all!"

Has the campaign already started? "Indeed. We have no choice but to kick start the campaign because the Conservative party has started to make many an-

nouncements. For instance, they've announced that the Child Tax Credit will take effect in July. In doing so, they're trying to buy votes. We have to make sure that people understand why it's so important to vote for the NDP and beat the Conservatives at the next election."

Priorities for 2015

When asked about his priorities for 2015, as the next parliamentary session resumes on January 26, Philip Toone spoke about the next budget. "One of the first major issues that will be debated is the budget (expected in the spring). We should always keep in mind that the previous ones were mammoth budgets with many amendments to laws that have changed the face of this beautiful country for the worse. This approach must stop if we want to continue to have a country that cares for people. Since the Conservatives came to power in 2006 so many things have changed."

Mr. Toone also has other priorities on the table. "The transportation file is another major issue in our region such as the reduction of the Orléans Express bus service (starting January 18) and VIA Rail that doesn't serve the Gaspé anymore. Therefore, I will present a by-law

that will recommend that VIA Rail better serve the regions of our country. I also intend to present another by-law concerning the protection of the marine environment. Numbers show that oil transportation on the St-Lawrence River will triple over the years but there is no enforcement of the Federal Environmental Law. It's simply nonsense. An oil spill can have serious consequences on the tourism and fishery industries and on the environment itself. Something has to be done," Philip Toone stated over the phone.