



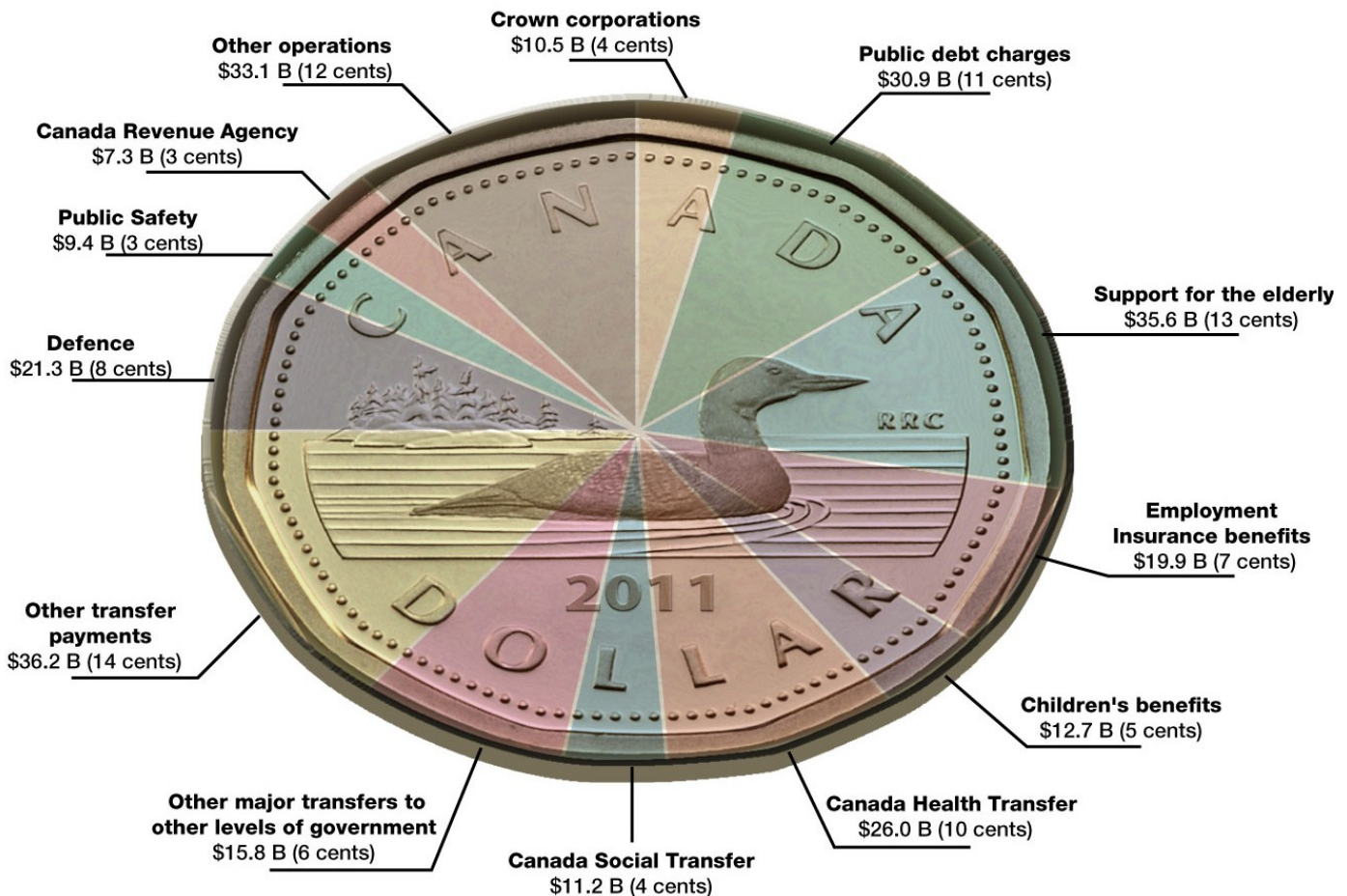
MAYES' MINUTES

JAN-FEB 2012

GOVERNMENT HAPPENINGS

Ending the Long Gun Registry - On February 15, 2012 in Ottawa, the House of Commons passed the Ending the Long Gun Registry Act and sent it to the Senate in a 159-130 vote. Our Government received a strong mandate to end the wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry once and for all, and that is exactly what we are doing. This vote marks a leap forward towards fulfilling our promise to scrap the wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry. We are delighted to be closer than ever to doing away with a \$2 billion boondoggle that criminalizes law-abiding Canadians.

Where your tax dollar goes:



Source: *Public Accounts of Canada 2011*
For more information, see <http://www.fin.gc.ca/taxdollar/index-eng.asp>

PROTECTING CANADA'S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM ACT

On February 16, 2012, the Harper Government introduced the Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act. Canada has the most fair and generous immigration system in the world; however, Canadians have no tolerance for those who abuse our generosity and who take unfair advantage of our country. Our government is committed to strengthening the integrity of Canada's immigration system.

Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act is the latest step taken by our Conservative government to ensure that our immigration system is no longer being abused by foreign criminals, bogus refugee claimants and human smugglers.

Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act will make Canada's refugee system faster and fairer. It will put a stop to foreign criminals, human smugglers and bogus refugees abusing Canada's generous immigration system and receiving lucrative taxpayer-funded health and social benefits. At the same time, this bill will provide protection more quickly to those who are truly in need.

Canadians have given us a strong mandate to protect Canada's immigration system. We are acting on that mandate.

Some important facts:

- In 2011, Canada received more refugee claims from the European Union than from Africa or Asia. In fact, last year alone, 23% of all refugee claims (5,800) were made by nationals from the European Union – that's up 14% from the previous year.
- Virtually all of the refugee claims from the European Union are withdrawn, abandoned, or rejected. These bogus refugees claims from the European Union cost Canadian taxpayers \$170 million per year.
- In 2009 and 2010, Canada received approximately 4700 hundred refugee claimants from Hungary. During the same period the United States received 47. In 2011, Canada received 4790 refugee claimants from Hungary.

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