

Focus: Thank You for the New Mandate!



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A MESSAGE FROM GORDON O'CONNOR

Thank you for the new mandate!

Dear constituents,

After much hard work and time spent meeting with thousands of people in the riding, I am honoured to be representing you as your Member of Parliament in Ottawa. Thank you for putting your trust in me. I appreciate that you exercised your democratic right to stand up for the values and concerns of Canadians, and I will work every day to defend your interests in Ottawa.

On May 2, Canadians chose a strong, stable, national Conservative majority Government focused on the top priorities of many families in Canada — **our economic recovery and creating jobs**. We received a strong mandate, but this is no time to change course. There is much more to be done.

Take a look inside these pages to see all the hard work our Government plans to do as part of the **Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan**.

In the coming weeks and months, I urge you to contact my office with any questions or concerns you may have at (613) 592-3469 or gordon.oconnor.a3@parl.gc.ca. I'm looking forward to meeting and speaking with all of you as we move forward during this great time in Canada's history together.

Sincerely,

Gordon O'Connor, MP

INSIDE

*Message from Gordon O'Connor,
M.P.*

**Focus: Thank you for the new
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Out & About

Si vous souhaitez
recevoir ce bulletin
en Français, veuillez
en faire la demande
à mon bureau SVP.

SECURING OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

Canada is one of the **top-performing** economies in the world. Canadians can be proud of what our country has achieved thanks, in part, to Canada's Economic Action Plan.

As of May 2011, our economy has created over 560,000 new jobs. Our country has posted the strongest employment growth in the G7 since mid-2009. More Canadians are working now than before the recession. And our economy, overall, has experienced growth for seven straight quarters.

While this is good news, we must not lose sight of what remains important to Canadian families. Our economy may be fairing well, but **the global economy still faces incredible challenges**. Any drastic changes in course could put the fragile worldwide recovery in jeopardy. That's why Stephen Harper's Conservative Government is **staying the course** through the Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan—our low-tax plan for jobs and growth.

We promised to take action for hard-working Canadians and job creators by keeping taxes low and stimulating our economy. **And we're delivering.**

Focus: Thank You For the New Mandate!

BALANCING CANADA'S BUDGET

It's evident by the number of new jobs, growth in our economy, and the strength of our banks, that the strong fiscal management of Stephen Harper's Conservative Government has helped guide Canada through the global economic recession.

As part of the **Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan**, our Government will work to return to a balanced budget without raising taxes, and without cutting transfers to the provinces.

First, we will **conclude the stimulus program** we have provided as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. Second, we will close tax loopholes that allow some

businesses and individuals to avoid paying their fair share of tax. This will help keep tax rates low and reaffirm our ongoing commitment to tax fairness. Third, we will launch a **comprehensive review of government operating spending**, aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations.

We have been clear: once the Economic Action Plan stimulus runs out, we'll take the right action to return Canada's budget to balance. Our Plan has helped Canada pull ahead of our G7 partners in making progress towards eliminating the deficit. And, these measures will allow us to **balance the budget a year earlier** than originally predicted, by 2014-15.

PROMOTING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Stephen Harper's Conservative Government understands that in order to be a world leader in research and innovation, Canada must attract and develop talented people, increase our capacity for development, and promote education and skills.

Since 2006, Canada has placed first among G7 countries in terms of spending on research and development in the higher education sector as a share of our economy. Through the **Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan**, our Government is investing more for the benefit of talented and hard-working researchers in Canada.

We're delivering **additional funding to three federal granting councils** who support advanced research at Canada's universities, colleges and research hospitals – including the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

We will establish 10 additional **Canada Excellence Research Chairs**, which helps attract and support world-leading researchers in areas of specific importance to Canada. And, we'll increase funding to support **Brain Canada's** efforts to develop new diagnostics, treatments and cures for brain disorders, including Alzheimer's disease.

SUPPORTING SENIORS

Canada's seniors deserve a secure and dignified retirement that reflects the contributions they have made for our great country.

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, Stephen Harper's Conservative Government has taken action to better the lives of Canada's seniors. Although Canada's retirement income system has reduced the incidence of poverty among seniors, some remain at risk.

That's why, through the Next Phase of our Plan, we're doing more for Canada's seniors. We're:

- enhancing the **Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)** for low-income seniors, providing an annual top-up amount that will benefit more than 680,000 seniors
- increasing funding for the **New Horizons for Seniors Program**, ensuring seniors can benefit from active living and participation in their communities
- working to eliminate **mandatory retirement**, allowing Canadians to choose how long wish to remain active in Canada's workforce
- supporting a **Pooled Retirement Pension Plan**, a low-cost pension option to provide additional help to seniors saving for retirement

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Stephen Harper's Conservative Government understands that protecting Canada's natural environment and the health of Canadians will be critical for the success of future generations.

Through the Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan, our Government is renewing funding for the **Clean Air Agenda**, an approach to climate change and clean air that will achieve real emissions reductions. At the same time, we'll be able to maintain Canada's economic advantage and help create jobs for Canadians. In addition, Canada is increasingly looked to as a secure and

dependable supplier of a wide range of energy products. Our Government will fund technological development in the areas of **clean energy and energy efficiency**.

The Next Phase of our Plan will also enhance **environmental protection of the Great Lakes**, an area that is fundamental to the well-being of millions of Canadians and Americans who live and work along their shores. And, we'll fund **Parks Canada** for the establishment of the Mealy Mountains National Park in Labrador, helping to generate economic activity by attracting tourism.

PARKS CANADA

This year marks the 100th birthday of Parks Canada – **the world's first national parks and historic sites service.**

Our Conservative Government has carried on this tradition of conservation. We have taken action to protect vast areas of land and water, including vulnerable ecosystems, habitat for endangered species, and magnificent natural vistas. Since 2006, the area of the lands and waters protected by Parks Canada has **increased by 48%.**

This achievement, and 100 years of conservation leadership by Parks Canada, was recognized by the World Wildlife Fund International with the prestigious Gift to the Earth award.

Among the recent accomplishments of Parks Canada are the **six-fold expansion** of Nahanni National Park Reserve and the negotiation with Ontario for the creation of Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area, which will be the **largest freshwater protected area in the world.**

Parks Canada also preserves our history, giving Canadians chances to learn first-hand about places such as L'Anse aux Meadows, where Vikings established the earliest known European settlement in the New World, and the fortified district of Old Quebec.

Canadians are invited to help celebrate this proud centennial by visiting national parks across our beautiful country.

STANDING ON GUARD FOR CANADA

Canadians just have to turn on the news to see we live in an age of global security threats. Stephen Harper's Conservative Government has a mandate and duty to protect the lives of Canadians, to defend our country and to secure our borders. This is not something our Government takes lightly. That's why we are taking concrete action against security threats.

We will crack down on human smuggling through the **Preventing Human Smugglers from Abusing Canada's Immigration System Act.** It's not fair that criminal human smugglers and bogus claimants abuse Canada's generosity.

We'll also work to **strengthen Canada's coast guard.** We'll deliver a law-enforcement mandate, to enable them to enforce federal laws on our oceans and on the Great Lakes.

Additionally, we'll reintroduce legislation to **combat terrorism.** In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Parliament passed legislation to give law enforcement the tools they need to combat terrorism. Unfortunately, the laws expired after five years; and the opposition stalled our efforts to protect Canadians. Now, law enforcement will be properly equipped to protect Canadians and defend our country against security threats.

DELIVERING INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In the years leading up to 2006, Canadians had lost faith in the integrity of their government. Waste, mismanagement and corruption ran rampant, and every day Canadians - people who worked hard, paid their taxes and played by the rules felt forgotten.

The first step Stephen Harper's Conservative Government took to right this wrong, was to pass the landmark Federal Accountability Act. Ottawa is now a different and better place as a result. Given our Government's strong mandate, we intend to take further steps to ensure our Government is as accountable as possible.

An unelected Senate is simply unacceptable in a modern democracy. Our Government will re-introduce legislation to **set term limits for Senators**, as well as encourage provinces to work with us to **establish a democratic process for selecting Senators.**

In addition, because of significant population changes, British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario are now significantly underrepresented in the House of Commons. Our Government will restore **fair representation in the House of Commons**, while at the same time, protecting the seat count of slower-growing provinces.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Stephen Harper's Conservative Government understands the importance of family. Taking care of families now will help to ensure the next generation of great Canadians are able to thrive.

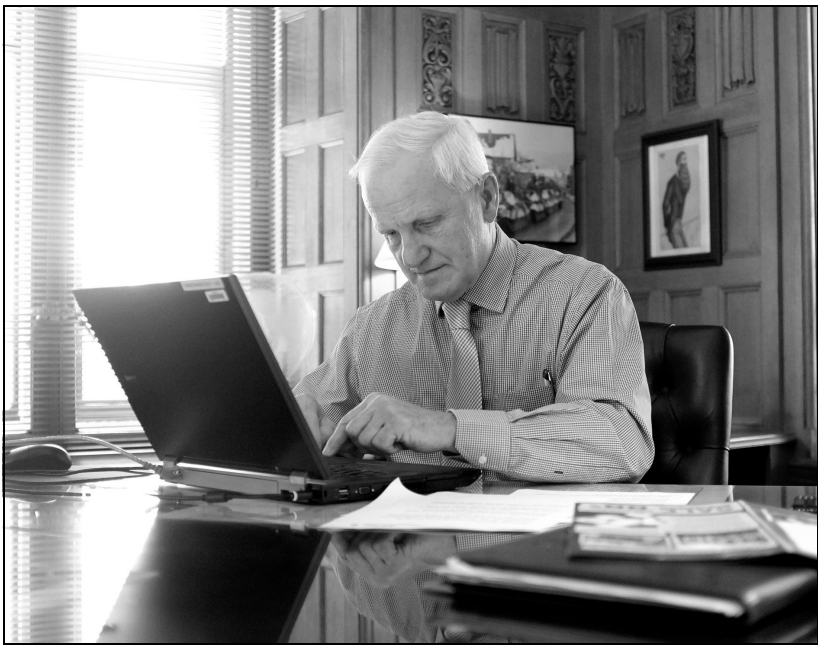
Since elected, our Government has significantly increased support for families to better assist them with the costs of raising children. Now, through the Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan, we're doing more for families:

- **Family Caregiver Tax Credit.** to provide relief for caregivers of all types of infirm dependent relatives
- **Children's Arts Tax Credit.** available on eligible expenses related to children's artistic and cultural activities
- extending the **ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes Program**, to help families lower their energy bills and support jobs in home renovation

And when Canada's budget is balanced in 2014-15, we'll:

- introduce the **Family Tax Cut**, income sharing for couples with dependent children under 18
- implement the **Adult Fitness Tax Credit**, to support Canadians who choose a healthy, active lifestyle
- double the **Tax-Free Savings Account** limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000

Out & About



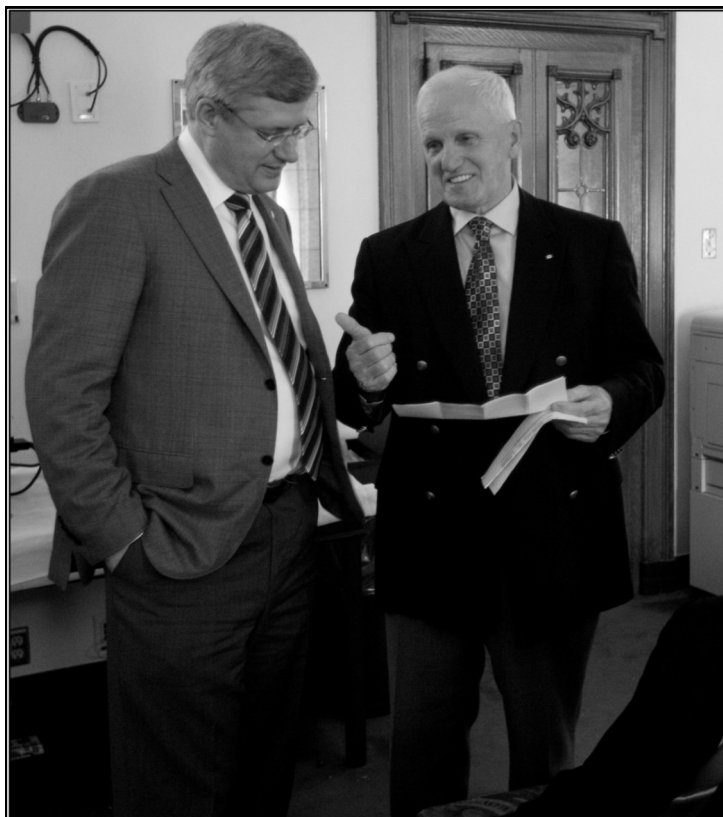
Hard at work on Parliament Hill.

Photo Courtesy of the Prime Minister's Office



Canada Day in Kanata, Ontario with Mayor Jim Watson and Councillor Allan Hubley.

Photo courtesy of Councillor Allan Hubley



Speaking with Prime Minister Stephen Harper during the NDP Filibuster in June 2011.

Photo Courtesy of the Prime Minister's Office



Gordon O'Connor's official swearing-in ceremony. Pictured with House of Commons Clerk Audrey O'Brien.

Photo Courtesy of House of Commons Photographer

LEADING ON THE WORLD STAGE

Canada is no stranger to leading on the world stage. Our country's economic performance during the global recovery stands out among advanced countries. We have posted the **strongest employment growth** in the G7 since mid-2009, and the World Economic Forum cited us as having the **strongest banks in the world** for the third consecutive year.

But our notable reputation does not stop at the performance of our economy. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has worked hard since taking office to create an image of a strong and free nation that is the best place to invest.

Our Government knows that the global flow of goods and

services creates jobs and economic growth for all Canadians. That's why we've negotiated **eight free-trade agreements** and are in talks towards many more. In May 2011, Prime Minister Harper was able to announce a bilateral agreement on **youth mobility with Greece** – empowering youth to broaden their horizons and develop a better understanding of each other's cultures.

In addition, the Prime Minister has been a strong advocate for maternal, newborn and child health initiatives on the world stage. The '**Muskoka Initiative**,' launched by G8 partners at the Muskoka G8 Summit in June 2010, supports initiatives to help save the lives of mothers and children in Africa and Asia.

For more information on what your government is doing for you and your family, please visit www.canada.gc.ca