



**PROTECT <sup>OUR</sup> ECONOMY**

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**OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN  
TO PROTECT THE ECONOMY**



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**FOREWORD BY  
PRIME MINISTER  
STEPHEN HARPER**

## **In this election, Canadians have a clear choice: a choice that carries the greatest of consequences for our economy, for our jobs, and for our families.**

Amid a global economy that is once again weak and in turmoil, Canada's economy remains stronger than most – but it's fragile, and needs protection from instability elsewhere in the world.

On October 19, Canadians will choose which party has the best plan, in these troubled times, to protect our economy and protect your job.

Because our economic vision for Canada is so different from that of our opponents, your choice will make a huge difference. Wrong government decisions on taxes, spending, and deficits will expose our economy to harm, and ultimately put the jobs of hard-working Canadians at risk.

For Conservatives, protecting Canada's economy is our number one priority.

That's why we have a positive plan to protect the economy and create jobs over the next four years, and beyond.

We'll:

- ✓ **Keep the federal budget balanced.**
- ✓ **Lower taxes on small businesses and workers.**
- ✓ **Aim to create another 1.3 million new, well-paying jobs by 2020.**
- ✓ **Open new markets for Canadian businesses and products through the Trans-Pacific Partnership.**
- ✓ **Aim to add more than 700,000 new homeowners by 2020.**
- ✓ **Provide new tax relief and benefits to families and seniors.**

Our plan will keep Canada's economy moving forward.

It's the right plan for our economy.

It's the right plan for Canadians.

Of course, we'll also continue to protect Canadians in a dangerous and uncertain world, keeping our streets and communities safe.

But ultimately, all of these things depend on a strong and growing economy.

So the choice in this election is this: Which government do you trust to manage and protect the fragile Canadian economy, and your job, in the face of global economic turmoil?

Our Conservative Party is the only party with a proven economic record and a low-tax, balanced budget plan for the future.

Permanent deficits, higher taxes, and more debt, as proposed by the Liberals and the NDP, will wreck our economy, cost you money, and possibly your job.

This platform sets out a different, better plan for the next four years. It's our plan to make this country – the greatest country in the world – even stronger and more prosperous for hard-working Canadian families, now and for generations to come.

It's our Economic Action Plan. It's working. Let's continue on with what we know works.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Harper".

# PROTECTING OUR ECONOMY: OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN

We have a positive plan for the next four years to protect Canada's economy, create new, well-paying jobs, and help families and seniors.



## BALANCED BUDGET

We balanced the budget last year – one year ahead of schedule – and already have a significant surplus for this year. A balanced budget is the anchor of our low-tax plan to protect our fragile economy and help Canadian families. We'll continue to make the right choices to keep our budget balanced and taxes low.



## LOWER TAXES

Our low-tax pledge is rooted in our record: Canadians know that we'll do what we say and that we'll manage taxpayer dollars responsibly. We're prepared to go even further and entrench our low-tax plan in legislation. Our "tax lock" legislation will back our low-tax commitment – to families, seniors, workers and small businesses – with the force of the law for the next four years.



## MORE AND BETTER JOBS

Our number one priority is the economy – creating jobs and economic growth. Canada has led the G-7 in job creation since 2006 because we've made the right choices. We've created 1.3 million net new jobs since the depths of the global economic recession, and our plan will create another 1.3 million new, well-paying jobs by 2020.



## EXPANDED TRADE

Canada is a trading nation and we've made historic strides to open new markets for Canadian businesses and their workers. The Trans-Pacific Partnership is the largest free trade deal in history. It provides almost 800 million new customers throughout the Asia-Pacific region for Canadian goods and services. Membership in this agreement is a good deal for Canada, one that will create jobs and opportunities and protect our economy.

## **FAMILY HOME**

Homeownership is a key way to support Canadian families. And we're helping more Canadians become homeowners by providing new support to buy and invest in their homes. Now one in seven Canadian households owns their own homes – one of the highest rates in the industrialized world. And, under our plan for affordable, responsible homeownership, we'll aim to add more than 700,000 new homeowners by 2020.

## **SUPPORTING SENIORS**

Canadian seniors deserve our respect and gratitude for a lifetime of hard work in service to our families, our communities, and our country. Our Government has lowered taxes and enhanced benefits to make life more affordable for Canadian seniors. And, under our plan, single and widowed seniors will get new, major tax relief to help them live their later years in dignity and comfort.

### **These are our priorities:**

- ✓ **Keeping our budget balanced.**
- ✓ **Lowering taxes on families, seniors, and small businesses.**
- ✓ **Creating 1.3 million new jobs.**
- ✓ **Opening new markets for Canadian businesses and workers.**
- ✓ **Helping 700,000 more Canadians own their own homes.**

**This is our positive plan to protect Canada's fragile economy and keep it moving forward for the next four years.**

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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A BALANCED BUDGET AND LOW TAXES



## To protect Canada's economy, a re-elected Conservative Government will:

- ✓ Ensure the federal budget remains balanced
- ✓ Control government spending
- ✓ Keep the tax burden low
- ✓ Continue to reduce Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio
- ✓ Maintain our balanced budget legislation
- ✓ Pass "Tax Lock" legislation to prohibit tax increases in the next four years

Budgets don't balance themselves. Canadian families and small business owners understand that. So does our Conservative Government. Keeping Canada's public finances on a solid footing involves hard work and tough choices. And that's what we've done.

Our Conservative Government has controlled spending, lowered taxes, and kept Canada's debt levels the lowest in the G-7 by far. This serves as the fiscal foundation for our plan for Canada's economy.

- ✓ **A balanced budget lets us return more money back into the pockets of hard-working families. The federal tax burden is now at its lowest in over half a century.**
- ✓ **A balanced budget lets us maintain our low debt levels. Low public debt means less taxpayer money dedicated to interest payments and makes it easier for businesses to borrow and invest at a low cost.**

- ✓ **A balanced budget lets us make targeted, affordable investments to protect our fragile economy and help families. This is the basis for our recent enhancement to the monthly Universal Child Care Benefit, our historic infrastructure investment, and the new measures set out in our plan for the next four years.**
- ✓ **A balanced budget allows us to protect key programs such as health care and education without having to make deep spending cuts, like previous Liberal governments.**
- ✓ **A balanced budget ensures that we're not passing on a massive debt burden to our children and grandchildren.**

It's for these reasons that our Conservative Government has been so committed to balancing the budget. A balanced budget is the anchor for our low-tax plan that's helping Canadian families and protecting Canada's fragile economy.

We ran a temporary deficit in 2009 to help protect and create jobs in the face of the worst global economic recession since the 1930s. But as part of our Economic Action Plan, we also set out a clear, credible plan to return to a balanced budget. And we've been focused on that plan ever since.

Unlike the previous Liberal government, we've continued to increase transfer payments to the provinces and territories for health care and education as we promised. And we've kept taxes low. Instead, we've eliminated the deficit by controlling government spending, by eliminating waste and duplication, and by getting rid of outdated or ineffective programs.

Our plan is working. We returned to balance in 2014-15 – a full year ahead of schedule. And, according to the Department of Finance, we're on track for the second balanced budget in a row this year.

Canada's sound public finances are the envy of the world, a source of our economic strength, and a re-elected Conservative Government will ensure they remain that way.

**“The Conservatives also enjoy an extra advantage, one that incumbency offers, but doesn't guarantee: a track record of doing almost exactly what it says it will do. In the 2010 budget, the Conservatives set out a path to balance the budget based on what amounted to a freeze on direct program expenditures for five years in a row. In the 2011 election campaign, the Conservatives promised to eliminate a \$33 billion budget deficit in time for the 2015 election. At the time, I didn't think that either commitment was feasible, but the Conservatives ended up delivering on both promises.”**

Stephen Gordon, professor of economics at Laval University (October 5, 2015).).

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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A BALANCED BUDGET AND LOW TAXES



Spending beyond our means, as the Liberals and NDP would have us do, would cause structural deficits that would damage our economy, lead to tax hikes and program cuts, and burden future generations with heavy debt. We need only to look around the world at countries like Greece to see the consequences of profligate and irresponsible spending.

That's not our plan, and not the way forward for Canada. We'll continue to advance our low-tax, balanced budget plan for jobs and growth, and we'll continue to operate in the black, spending sensibly within our means and keeping the books balanced.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will balance the budget every year in the next four years while keeping taxes low, increasing transfers to the provinces and territories for health care and education, and making affordable investments to protect the economy and help Canadian families.**

We'll accomplish this by controlling the growth of direct program spending and maintaining the operating budget freeze for one more year. These steps will provide the fiscal room to make the affordable investments set out in our plan and ensure that the budget remains balanced without raising taxes.

Our plan is based on the fiscal projections in the 2015 Budget presented in April. These projections were based on independent, expert advice from Canada's leading private-sector economists, and include contingencies of up to \$3 billion per year to account for the current global economic uncertainty.

Put simply: Canadians can count on us to keep the budget balanced and taxes low in the next four years. We're so committed to these goals, we'll entrench them in law.

Our balanced budget legislation ensures that the only acceptable deficit is one that responds to a recession or truly extraordinary circumstances. Deficits outside of these rare scenarios are unacceptable.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will follow the *Federal Budget Balanced Act* to keep spending under control, the budget balanced, and taxes low.**
- ✓ **We will also continue to reduce Canada's debt burden to meet our debt-to-GDP target of 25 percent by 2021. Canada now has the lowest debt levels by far among G-7 countries, and we'll make sure our children and grandchildren aren't forced to pay the price for reckless borrowing and spending.**

Canadians know they can trust us to lower their taxes and keep them low. This is a major point of difference between our Conservative Party and the Liberals and NDP. These two parties have promised some combination of higher taxes on individuals, families, seniors, and small businesses – including taking away income splitting and eliminating Tax-Free Savings Accounts in whole or in part.

Our low-tax pledge is rooted in our record. Canadians know that we'll do what we say and that we'll manage taxpayer dollars responsibly. But unlike the Liberals and NDP, we're prepared to go even further and entrench our low-tax plan in legislation.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will pass legislation imposing a “tax lock” that prohibits increases to federal personal and business income tax rates, sales tax rates, and discretionary payroll taxes over the next four years. This pledge backs our low-tax commitment with the force of the law.**

## AT RISK

Our Conservative Government is the only party in this election with a clear plan to keep the budget balanced and taxes low. Not only do we have a clear track record, but we're putting forward new measures to ensure the budget stays balanced and the tax burden continues to fall.

The Liberals and NDP have put forward plans to run large, permanent deficits, hike taxes on workers, families, and small businesses, and leave our economy exposed. They'll do this by:

- ✗ **Adding billions of dollars in new spending, running ongoing, permanent deficits, and accumulating billions more in debt.**
- ✗ **Repealing our balanced budget legislation so they can run deficits without being accountable to Canadians.**
- ✗ **Putting important programs like health care and education at risk as a result of their reckless and irresponsible spending.**
- ✗ **Eliminating the Family Tax Cut which is providing up to \$2,000 in tax relief for 1.7 million families.**
- ✗ **Taking away the monthly Universal Child-Care Benefit which is providing nearly \$2,000 per year for children under age 6, and more than \$700 per year for children aged 6 to 17. The UCCB goes to all the nearly four million families with children.**
- ✗ **Shutting down Tax-Free Savings Accounts which are helping 11 million Canadians save and grow their savings tax-free.**
- ✗ **Cancelling Pension Income Splitting which is providing one million senior couples with more than \$1 billion annual tax relief.**

- X Hiking payroll taxes – as much as \$1,000 per year for someone making \$60,000 – on Canadian workers and small businesses.**
- X Driving up the price of everything Canadian families buy – including gasoline, groceries, and home heating fuel – by imposing carbon pricing schemes on the Canadian economy.**





1.3 MILLION  
NEW JOBS

PROTECT  
OUR  
ECONOMY

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**OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN  
FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY**

## To protect our economy and create jobs, a re-elected Conservative Government will:

- ✓ Aim to create 1.3 million new jobs by 2020
- ✓ Cut taxes on small businesses from 11 to 9 percent
- ✓ Lower payroll taxes on small businesses and workers by more than 20 percent
- ✓ Implement the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement
- ✓ Provide new incentives for manufacturers to purchase equipment and invest in new technologies
- ✓ Grant tax relief to businesses that hire apprentices

As much of the rest of the world continues to struggle with the fallout from the recent global financial recession, Canada has emerged in a position of relative strength.

We have one of the best job-creation records in the G-7. Indeed, since the depths of the global recession, 1.3 million net new jobs – mostly well-paying, full-time positions in the private sector – have been created. That's more Canadians working than before the recession. That's more Canadians working than ever before in our country's history.

And it's so much more than just a number. With every job created, there's another Canadian who knows the dignity of supporting his or her family, and another family with a brighter future.

Having a good job is the difference between worrying about today and dreaming about tomorrow – which is why the creation of new, well-paying jobs for Canadians will continue to be our top priority.

The best way to ensure more and better jobs is to create the right conditions for our enterprising businesses to do what they do best. Businesses create jobs and opportunities that make our economy stronger, and the new products and ideas that make our lives better. That means continuing with our Conservative plan to balance the budget, keep taxes and debt low, open new markets for Canadians products, make smart, affordable investments in the economy, and support entrepreneurs and small businesses as they hire and grow.

Keeping our budget balanced and lowering taxes on small businesses is the right way for government to protect Canada's fragile economy and create jobs.

The other parties have a different vision. The Liberals and NDP believe that they can raise taxes, run deficits, and accumulate more government debt without killing jobs. But all you have to do is look around the world to see the consequences of that type of high-tax, high-debt agenda. It saps small business ingenuity and diminishes the reward for innovation and hard-work. It punishes success and discourages entrepreneurs from entering the market. It chokes off job creation and, ultimately, wrecks economies. In Canada, it would mean more Canadians out of work and looking for jobs. Canadians simply can't afford the high-tax agenda of the Liberals and NDP.

The path forward is clear: only a re-elected Conservative Government will continue to implement its low-tax, balanced budget plan to protect Canada's economy and create jobs.

This is the right path. It's working. And we intend to keep moving forward.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will build on our job-creation record by implementing a positive plan to create 1.3 million net new jobs by 2020.**



# Keeping taxes low

We understand that keeping taxes low helps small businesses to grow and create new, well-paying jobs. Because of our low-tax, balanced budget plan for jobs and economic growth, Canada has the lowest overall tax rate on new business investment of all the major advanced economies, and our tax rate on small businesses continues to fall. Canada is now often cited as one of the best countries in the world in which to do business.

A re-elected Conservative Government will maintain and build on this low-tax record.

- ✓ **We will not raise taxes on the businesses that create jobs for Canadians or on Canadian workers. Our “tax lock” legislation will prohibit income and sales tax rate increases and discretionary payroll tax hikes on Canadian businesses and workers for the next four years.**

✓ **Instead, we will carry out our plan to lower the tax rate on small businesses – which we've already lowered from 13 percent to 11 percent – another two percentage points, to nine percent, by 2019. This is the largest reduction in the small business tax rate in a quarter century.**

The Liberals and NDP have promised to raise payroll taxes on workers and small businesses by billions of dollars. But we know that lower payroll taxes encourage small businesses to hire more Canadians, and to pay them higher wages. That's why we've worked so hard to keep those taxes down.

Our low-tax record is clear. We have kept payroll taxes low and in 2014 we created the two-year Small Business Job Credit to provide more than \$550 million in payroll tax relief for 780,000 job-creating businesses across the country.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to lower these taxes. Beginning in 2017, when the current freeze on EI premiums expires, we will lower them by more than 20 percent – a substantial benefit to Canadian small businesses and workers. Our small businesses will be able to hire even more workers, and for 16 million Canadian workers, it'll mean a significant salary raise.**

We're the only party - the only ones that can be trusted - to keep taxes low on small businesses and their workers for the next four years.

**“CFIB applauds the government for lowering the tax burden on Canada’s small businesses now that the budget has been balanced. Reducing the small business corporate tax rate was viewed by CFIB members as the most effective measure the federal government could take to strengthen the performance of small firms. We are especially pleased that government intends to legislate the full small business tax cut plan before the election.”**

*Canadian Federation of Independent Business (April 21, 2015).*



# Opening markets for Canadian businesses

From the days of the French and British traders who first laid the foundations of our modern economy, Canada has been a trading nation. Trade is the lifeblood of our economy. It accounts for 60 percent of our GDP, and one in five Canadian jobs. Canadian businesses and workers know instinctively that we can compete with the world's best as long as the playing field is level. We also know that we're better off when our goods and services can reach global markets without barriers and restrictions.

Yet previous governments failed Canadians when it came to negotiating trade access for Canadian products. While other countries were busy signing free-trade deals and receiving preferential access to important markets, the Liberals weren't even at the negotiating table. And Canadian businesses and workers suffered.

Our Conservative Government has reversed this inaction and opened up new markets for Canadian products and services.

When we took office Canada had free trade agreements with only five other countries. We've now reached agreements with 44 countries, encompassing more than half the global marketplace, including historic trade deals with South Korea and the European Union, with its 500-million person, \$18-trillion economy. These agreements have given Canadian businesses and their workers access to more than half the global marketplace.

Yet there's more to accomplish. In the past few days we have concluded the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement with 11 other founding countries, including the United States, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. The TPP is the largest free trade deal in history. It gives

greater access for Canadian goods and services to almost 800 million consumers throughout the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region.

It's a great deal for Canada that will significantly benefit our economy and Canadians' prosperity. The TPP will protect and create jobs, grow Canada's economy, and provide financial security to workers and businesses in all regions of the country. It guarantees preferential access for Canadian goods and services in a range of sectors including agriculture and agri-food, fish and seafood, forestry, metals and mining, and manufactured industrial goods.

- ✓ **The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a historic agreement that will protect and create jobs, and grow Canada's economy now and in the future. That's why a re-elected Conservative Government will ratify and implement the TPP.**

As part of the TPP negotiations, we've defended and protected Canada's supply management system, as we committed to. We've limited access to only three and one quarter percent of our dairy market. And we've announced key programs to ensure Canada's supply-managed sectors – and the communities that depend on them – continue to thrive. To ensure stability for supply-managed farmers through the implementation of our trade agreements, we've established long-term income and quota guarantee programs. And we're supporting investment in cutting-edge technologies for our processing sector and marketing of world-class Canadian products, which are of the highest quality.

Free trade only works when it's also fair – and this means a modern and effective system of remedy when a Canadian company has been treated unjustly.

A re-elected Conservative Government will take steps to modernize our system and ensure that it's comparable with the practices and policies of our main trading partners. To this end we'll:

- ✓ **Mandate the Canada Border Services Agency to carry out a full investigation of trade complaints even in cases when preliminary reviews by the Canadian International Trade Tribunal come back negative.**

**“This is an exciting moment for Canada...we’re looking at huge gains for Canadian farmers, food processors, and companies in forestry, mining, aerospace, financial services and information technology, among other industries.”**

Canadian Chamber of Commerce  
(October 5, 2015).

**“This is an historic moment for the hundreds of thousands of Canadians who are employed by Canada’s export-based agriculture and agri-food sector. Whether you are a farm family who depends on world markets, a processor, exporter, or live in a community supported by agriculture or food processing, improved access to TPP markets bodes well for a stable and prosperous future.”**

Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance  
(October 5, 2015).

**“[The Government] should increase alignment and coordination, and develop a single-window interface for companies. Business cases are influenced by departments and ministries across governments. A coordinated strategy to help companies win mandates should be led by a single federal unit. This coordinating unit should also provide a single-window interface for companies seeking approvals and supports. It should mobilize others to address a range of issues, including international and interprovincial labour mobility, human capital development, access to natural resources, border services, transport integration, and trade and regulation.”**

*Public Policy Forum, Attracting Global Mandates and Investment in Canada (2011).*

- ✓ **Require the Canadian International Trade Tribunal to carry out an automatic five-year review of every finding of non-compliance, to ensure the conflict has been resolved in a satisfactory manner.**
- ✓ **Continue to work with stakeholders such as the Canadian Steel Producers Association to ensure that the system is effective and accessible, and ultimately creates a level-playing field for Canadian businesses.**

The federal government provides a wide range of programs and services to firms looking to invest in Canada and to Canadian businesses trying to sell their goods and services abroad. These initiatives help attract investment and job creation in Canada and support export-oriented Canadian businesses in their search for new market opportunities and new customers.

There remains, however, room for improvement. The system can be difficult for small firms to navigate. Government efforts to attract investment and promote job creation can sometimes be stymied by a lack of coordination.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will establish an Investment and Trade Promotion Office with a mandate to coordinate the government's various efforts to encourage businesses in other countries to invest in Canada, and to promote Canadian exports abroad. The Office will be a one-stop shop to attract investment and product mandates to Canada and help growing Canadian businesses enter new markets.**



# Cutting red tape

Small businesses should be focused on creating jobs, not filling out paperwork. That's why our Conservative Government has made it a priority to reduce bureaucratic red tape.

We've passed world-leading "One-for-One" legislation that requires bureaucrats to eliminate a current regulation before establishing a new one. We've taken steps to harmonize Canadian regulations with those of our major trading partners. And we've improved the way we consult with small business owners about government policy.

The result of all this is a dramatic change in the culture of the federal government, putting unprecedented emphasis on the needs of Canadian small businesses. And the benefits so far are clear: Small businesses are now spending \$32 million less sorting through regulatory red tape. That's hundreds of thousands of working

hours Canadians are now spending building their businesses instead of filling out forms.

But there's always more that can be done.

A re-elected Conservative Government will build on this record by:

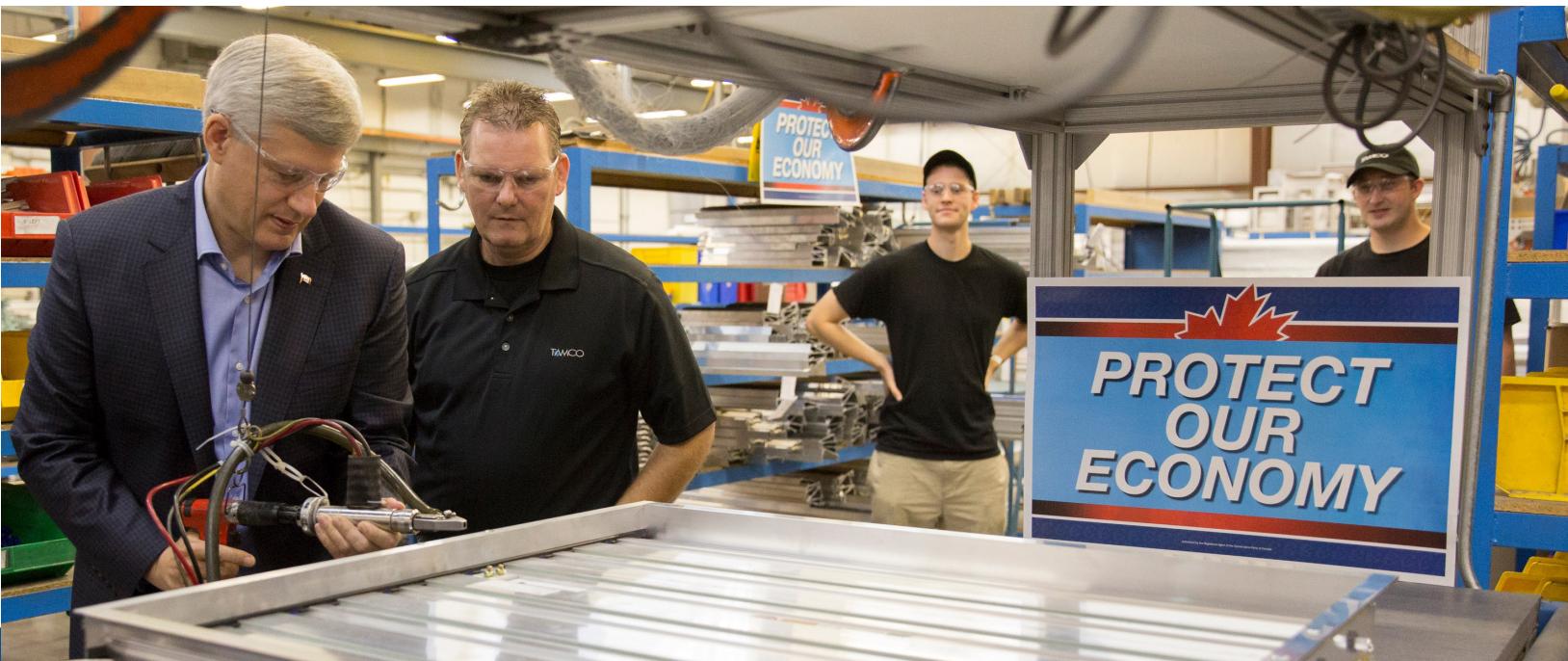
- ✓ **Launching a new round of consultations, asking small business owners across the country for feedback on our current reforms and suggestions for future measures.**
- ✓ **Expanding the "red tape baseline," increasing significantly the scope of the red tape burden subject to the One-for-One rule.**
- ✓ **And with a more comprehensive baseline, challenging ourselves to reduce the overall burden by 20 percent. We'll achieve this goal while maintaining the highest standards in all areas, including health and safety.**

To achieve our 20 percent target we will take short-term, immediate action to cut red tape in ways that are real, measureable and meaningful to Canadians.

- ✓ **We'll work with the Retail Council of Canada to better harmonize Canada's child car seat regulations with the United States. This will reduce the red tape burden for our retailers, and at the same time allow them to offer greater choice and better prices to Canadian parents with young families.**
  
- ✓ **And we'll make life easier for the 1.2 million Canadians who claim home-office expense deductions, 80 percent of whom are self-employed. Anyone who makes a claim once will be able to use the same cost estimates, adjusted for inflation, in subsequent years.**

**“[We] can be proud that Canada is now the first country in the world to require that for every new regulation introduced one of equivalent burden must be removed.”**

*Laura Jones, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Federation of Independent Business (April 24, 2015).*



# Manufacturing strategy

In a fast-changing world, here's one thing that hasn't changed: Canada's manufacturing sector is absolutely vital to our growing economy. It accounts for about 11 percent of our GDP, 61 percent of Canadian exports, and provides good, secure jobs to almost 1.7 million Canadians across the country. Indirectly, it employs many millions more. Manufacturing firms pay out \$1.85 billion weekly in salaries to Canadian workers across the country.

But what is changing is the nature of the work. It's becoming more skilled, more specialized, and more globally competitive.

Liberal leader Justin Trudeau says that manufacturing's time is passed, that it's time for Canada to "transition away" from manufacturing. Our Conservative Government disagrees. Manufacturing has played a key role in Canada's economy since before

Confederation – and, with the right plan, will continue to sustain high-quality, high-paying jobs and economic activity across the country.

Our Conservative Government has a positive plan to sustain our manufacturing sector. We're:

- ✓ **Lowering taxes to make it easier for manufacturers to invest in advanced technology and equipment.**
- ✓ **Helping Canadians acquire the skills and training they need to take advantage of new opportunities in manufacturing.**
- ✓ **Opening new markets for manufacturers to find customers and sell their products.**
- ✓ **Making strategic investments to encourage research and development and the creation of new products and technologies.**

This is what our manufacturing strategy is all about. And it's working. Manufacturing wages are up nearly 20 percent since we've come to office. But there's more to be done to support what the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters have called our "manufacturing renaissance."

Manufacturers need to invest in new machinery and equipment to remain globally competitive, expand their businesses, and create good new jobs. To help with this, we've reduced taxes steadily on these investments.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will carry out our ten-year plan to lower the tax burden on Canadian manufacturers that acquire the machinery and equipment they need to succeed.**

Canada is attracting high-quality, value-added manufacturing investment. But more can be done to bolster advanced manufacturing across the country.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will support a new Advanced Manufacturing Hub in partnership with employers, our colleges and universities, and other stakeholders to encourage the development of new cutting-edge products and technologies. The new center, located in Southwestern Ontario, will become a catalyst for high-quality, value-added investment and jobs in the manufacturing sector.**
- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will establish a \$100-million Manufacturing Technology Demonstration Fund to support large-scale, cutting-edge manufacturing projects in the developmental, pre-commercial stages. This fund will build on our existing significant investments in science and technology to make Canada a world leader in new manufacturing technologies.**

**“In recent years, the federal government has introduced a number of important fiscal measures that are already making a significant positive contribution to business investment, innovation, and job growth. Reductions in the business tax rate, the extension of the two-year write-off for investments in manufacturing and processing machinery and equipment, the elimination of import duties on materials and equipment used in manufacturing, and the signing of key international trade agreements will set the framework for growth in the future.”**

*Jay Myers, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (August 2014).*

**“This new Fund is exactly in line with what we have called for. We believe that a technology demonstration fund is important because it would improve the ability of Canada's leading manufacturers to secure new investments in major industrial R&D mandates, strengthen our technology base in advanced manufacturing, and lead to new high tech supply chain opportunities for small and medium-sized firms throughout Canada's manufacturing sector.”**

*Jay Myers, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (September 20, 2015).*

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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY

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- ✓ We'll also renew the Automotive Innovation Fund for ten years, beginning in 2018-19, at baseline funding of \$100 million per year. This will help to create a stable, predictable environment for new automotive investment in Canada.
  - ✓ In addition, we'll change the program's parameters in the immediate term to include bricks and mortar as eligible expenses and offer grants rather than repayable loans for greenfield investments and investments in existing facilities that guarantee a long-term presence and operation.

We still believe the phrase "Made in Canada" translates well around the world: It means high-quality goods built by highly skilled workers, and it inspires confidence that a product is the very best. And on our watch, Canada will never turn away from this legacy of excellence.



# Skills training for new and better jobs

A big part of our Conservative Government's agenda has been providing support to those Canadians looking to upgrade their skills for a new job, enter the skilled trades, or obtain credential recognition for their international training. Having the right skills is often the key to finding a new job or getting a pay raise.

As part of this agenda, our Government has always made a priority of supporting apprenticeships and Canadians working in the skilled trades. These are the people who are literally building this great country, and one estimate predicts that Canada will need one million more skilled workers by 2020.

One measure we've taken to help young Canadians launch careers in the skilled trades is the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit. The program has been a resounding success, with the number of businesses using this tax credit rising

six fold – from about 2,000 to almost 12,000 and nearly 68,000 apprentices.

To build on this success, and to encourage more employers to create more jobs for the next generation of skilled workers, a re-elected Conservative Government will take further steps to support those who wish to enter the skilled trades and to help Canadians wishing to update their skills for a new or better-paying jobs. These steps include:

- ✓ **Enhancing and extending the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit – raising the amount employers can claim to \$2,500 and extending the credit into the third and fourth years of an apprenticeship program.**
- ✓ **Establishing a new Skilled Trades Job Experience Program to help up to 2,000 young Canadians get valuable job experience working in the skilled trades.**

- ✓ Working with the provinces and territories, employers, and interested post-secondary institutions to develop curriculum that better responds to employer and market needs.
- ✓ Implementing Canada Apprentice Loans to help aspiring tradespeople get the training they need.
- ✓ Continuing to support skills-training programming such as the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy and the Skills and Partnership Fund to help First Nations participate fully in the economy and find high-paying, high-quality jobs.
- ✓ Maintaining programs such as the Opportunities Fund and the Enabling Accessibility Fund to help disabled Canadians participate in the job market.

Canada is a beacon of freedom and prosperity to people all around the world, and attracts countless immigrants every year seeking a better place to raise their families and pursue their dreams.

But too often they find it challenging to pursue their careers here because of difficulties having their professional credentials recognized, leaving them under-employed and unable to maximize both their own potential and their contribution to our country. In fact, this problem costs the Canadian economy about \$2 billion every year.

Our Government has worked hard to help new Canadians in this position. In 2011 we launched a pilot program that provided loans to support new Canadians who needed help with training and licensing to have their international credentials recognized here in Canada. It was a significant success, distributing 2,000 loans across the country – and recovering more than 99 percent of the money lent. So in Economic Action Plan 2015, we made this program permanent.

- ✓ A re-elected Conservative Government will build on this success story by doubling the size of the program, and setting a goal of providing as many as 20,000 foreign credential recognition loans over the next four years.

**“We heartily endorse the objective of the Canada Apprentice Loan to help more trades trainees complete their apprenticeship and become certified journeypersons. The Government of Canada has recognized the financial burden faced by apprentices when they return to the classroom while maintaining their monthly financial obligations, and supports such as the Canada Apprentice Loan help reduce that constant pressure.”**

Nobina Robinson, CEO, Polytechnics Canada (March 20, 2015).

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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY

**“The [Canada Job Grant] will put employers in the driver’s seat and ensures training dollars are tied to real jobs.”**

*Progressive Contractors Association of Canada*

- ✓ We’ll also work with the provinces and territories, through the Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications, to improve the service standards for accreditation decisions for target, high-demand occupations under the Framework from one year to 60 days.

The Canada Job Grant is the most important reform to federal skills-training program in decades. The new Canada Job Grant helps employers train new or existing employees for jobs that need to be filled. It’s providing federal grants of up to \$10,000 per worker for skills upgrades, on the condition that the training is tied to new or better jobs. The program is working. Nearly 50,000 grants have been funded to date.

- ✓ A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support the Canada Job Grant and consider ways to build on its success in other job-training programs.



# Our world-leading immigration system

Canada is a welcoming country and attracts many of the world's best and brightest who are searching for freedom and opportunity, while continuing our tradition of family reunification and refugee protection. Our Conservative Government has maintained immigration at historically high levels, attracting newcomers who have the skills and experience our economy needs. Since 2006, we have welcomed over 2.5 million new permanent residents, including 240,000 refugees, and have sworn-in 1.6 million new Canadian citizens.

To ensure that newcomers succeed, while growing the Canadian economy, the Conservative Government has made important reforms, including:

- ✓ **Moving to a fast and flexible immigration system where the priority focus is on meeting Canada's labour market needs.**

- ✓ **Creating the Canadian Experience class that invites foreign students who have graduated from Canadian universities and colleges to stay and obtain permanent residency.**
- ✓ **Radically improving the geographic distribution of immigrants across Canada, partly by increasing the Provincial Nominee Programs by tenfold.**
- ✓ **Eliminating massive backlogs created by previous Liberal governments that left aspiring Canadians waiting for years.**
- ✓ **Establishing a new Expression of Interest system that shifts from a passive processing of applications to fast-tracking of applicants with jobs offers or in-demand skills.**

- ✓ **Reforming the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to prevent abuses, and ensure that Canadians always get the first chance at available jobs.**
- ✓ **Increasing family reunification by 10%, while introducing the popular new ten-year multiple-entry Super Visa for parents and grandparents.**
- ✓ **Cutting the Liberals' right of landing fee in half, saving newcomers hundreds of millions of dollars.**
- ✓ **Tripling funding for settlement services, like free language classes and job search skills.**
- ✓ **Creating free pre-arrival orientation counselling for selected economic immigrants to help them get a head start on credential recognition and finding employment before they get to Canada.**

While our government has welcomed a record number of newcomers, we have also strengthened the integrity of our immigration system, cracking down on those who would abuse Canada's generosity by:

- ✓ **Adopting the Cracking Down on Crooked Immigration Consultants Act, and designating a stronger new regulatory body for immigration consultants.**
- ✓ **Combatting immigration marriage fraud with a two-year residency requirement, which has resulted in a significant decline in commercial marriages of convenience.**
- ✓ **Reforming the asylum system to ensure that bona fide refugee claimants get protection, and bogus claimants are removed, in months rather than years. This has led to a large reduction in the number of unfounded asylum claims being made in Canada.**
- ✓ **Successfully combatting human smuggling, through the adoption of the Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act, which has helped to stop dangerous marine smuggling operations from targeting Canada.**

**“We applaud Minister Kenney and the government for making changes to our immigration policy and programs that support economic growth by focusing on our skilled labour needs.”**

*Canadian Chamber of Commerce  
(December 11, 2012).*

- ✓ **Significantly improving immigration security screening through the adoption of a biometric visa requirement, electronic travel authorization for visa-exempt nationals, an entry-exit information system, and the *Faster Removal of Foreign Criminals Act*.**

These policies are helping to transform Canada's immigration system, support Canada's economy, and provide greater opportunity to new Canadians.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to make the immigration system faster, flexible, and more responsive to the needs of Canada's economy.**
- ✓ **We'll continue to be a world leader in refugee protection.**
- ✓ **We'll increase the intake of applications for the parents and grandparents sponsorship program, as the backlog and processing times continue to decrease.**



# Spurring innovation and research and development

The marketplace is dynamic. Canadian businesses grow and succeed by staying ahead of the competition. This means adopting new technologies and developing new goods, services, and processes. Staying ahead means never growing complacent and always innovating.

Our Conservative Government has helped Canadian businesses invest and grow through targeted tax relief, new financing to develop products and processes, and partnerships with universities, colleges, and polytechnics to test out new ideas and turn them into the next big technology success story.

A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to help Canadian businesses adopt advanced technologies and carry out research and development by:

- ✓ **Implementing the \$100 million Automotive Supplier Innovation Program to support product development and technology demonstration by Canadian automotive parts suppliers.**
- ✓ **Rolling out the \$200 million Advanced Manufacturing Fund to support new and innovative products and production methods in Ontario.**
- ✓ **Working with Canada's world-leading aerospace industry to develop a national supplier development initiative to ensure Canada's aerospace industry remains a global technology leader and a major source of high-quality jobs.**

- ✓ Continuing our participation in the International Space Station which will mean new opportunities for Canada's space industry, and expanding support for Canada's satellite telecommunications sector through its partnership with the European Space Agency.
- ✓ Providing ongoing support to the National Research Council's transformation to better serve the research and development needs of Canadian businesses. This includes ongoing support for the Industrial Research Assistance Program which is helping small- and medium-sized businesses finance research initiatives.
- ✓ Expanding our support for the National Optics Institute in Quebec City, to continue its leadership in business-oriented optic and photonic research.

We'll also continue to support research and development at Canada's universities, colleges, and polytechnics. Our Government has invested over \$13 billion in science, technology and innovation since 2006. And Canada has consistently ranked first in the G-7 for research and development spending in the higher education sector as a share of GDP.

A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support basic and applied post-secondary research by:

- ✓ Implementing the \$1.5 billion Canada First Research Excellence Fund to support world-leading research projects that create long-term economic advantage for Canada.
- ✓ Continuing to support the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to finance research infrastructure on university, college, and polytechnic campuses. We'll provide \$1.33 billion over six years, starting in 2017-18, to support the Foundation's ongoing work.

**“[The association] welcomes today's federal budget announcement of the Automotive Supplier Innovation Program. A program which addresses the critical gap in support for industry based product development that lies between the basic research conducted in universities and fully-commercialized products in the marketplace is a welcomed course of action.”**

*Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association (April 21, 2015).*

**“A national supply chain initiative will have a significant long-term impact on the industry's ability to grow individual companies and help them scale the supply chain faster than they have in the past. This is good news for Canadian companies, their employees, and our economy.”**

*Aerospace Industry Association of Canada (April 21, 2015).*

**“This is a pivotal moment for research excellence and innovation in Canada. The establishment of an ambitious new research excellence fund, coupled with the commitment of enhanced funding in discovery research through the federal granting councils, represent a catalytic investment. This shows that the government is taking a strategic approach to creating prosperity in Canada.”**

*Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (February 11, 2014).*

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**“The federal government's \$1.33-billion investment to the Canada Foundation for Innovation - the largest single investment ever made in research infrastructure support - will allow universities to attract the very best talent and conduct the kind of ground-breaking research that transforms lives and meets Canada's strategic goals for success.”**

*Council of Ontario Universities (April 21, 2015).*

- ✓ Investing in ongoing support for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.



# Creating opportunity for Canada's farmers

It's no exaggeration to say that the family farm is the foundation of the Canada we love today. The products have evolved, the markets have changed, and the technology has advanced, but some things remain constant: From before the sun comes up to long after it goes down, farmers across Canada do the backbreaking work that feeds the country. The work is hard, and financially risky – but absolutely vital to Canadians.

It's also vital to our economy. The agriculture and agri-food sectors account for more than \$100 billion in economic activity every year, and employ more than two million Canadians. The importance of agriculture to our national interest can't be overstated. And our Conservative Government's support for farmers is unwavering.

A significant part of our support for the sector has been dedicated to innovation and crop science.

Our Government has consistently supported strategic research and development by industry into agricultural technologies, processes, practices and services – research that drives growth and creates jobs and opportunities in the industry by making it more sustainable and more globally competitive.

The projects we are supporting are as diverse as the industry itself. The Agri-Innovation program, for instance, has been used to develop pest-management tools in the blueberry industry; to find new and innovative ways to turn food by-products into environmentally friendly, value-added goods; and to increase the competitiveness of our food-processing industry while making our food better, healthier, and safer.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will increase funding to the Agri-Innovation program by \$100 million over three years, and make projects driven by universities and colleges eligible for financing.**

Our farmers and their produce can compete with the best in the world. Our Government has been there to help them enter global markets and find new customers. We established the Market Access Secretariat in 2009 to serve as a single-window to help Canadian farmers with trade-related issues. We've hired trade commissioners dedicated to agriculture issues. And we've co-funded marketing activities with industry to enhance Canada's agricultural presence in priority markets.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will increase support for the Agri-Marketing Program to help promote Canada's agricultural and agri-food products around the world, building on our international reputation for excellence and increasing the visibility of the Canadian brand in important markets.**
- ✓ **We'll also continue to expand the activities of the Market Access Secretariat to help Canadian farmers diversify into new markets.**
- ✓ **As we open new markets for agricultural products, we'll continue to stand up for Canadian farmers and industries by defending our system of supply management in all international forums and trade negotiations.**

We understand that market access also requires a robust transportation system with fair rules and accountabilities. Our Government passed the *Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act* in May 2014 to provide more certainty and better service standards with respect to grain volumes for farmers and shippers.

**“This action demonstrates that government is listening to farmers' concerns. It speaks to their ongoing commitment to address service problems with Canada's rail transportation system and moves us closer to solving the complex grain logistics challenges that we face.”**

*Canadian Canola Growers Association (May 30, 2014).*

**“The federal government's strong support for building new markets and maintaining market access will be very valuable to the soybean sector. As acreage and production of soybeans continues to expand in Canada, this partnership with the Government of Canada will help secure new markets and contribute to economic growth in the sector.”**

*Jim Everson, Executive Director, Soy Canada (June 25, 2015).*

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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY



We also launched a broader review of our transportation system to determine what policy changes should be made to address key issues facing the transportation sector, including ensuring Canada's supply chains have the capacity, flexibility and resiliency to meet future demands. The review panel, led by the Honourable David Emerson, will provide recommendations to the government later this year.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will take action to improve Canada's transportation network and support market access for Canadian farmers, based upon the recommendations of the transportation review.**



# Promoting Canada's fisheries

Commercial fishing has been a pillar of the Canadian economy since the 16th century.

Today, Canada's commercial fishery employs, directly and indirectly, about 80,000 Canadians, and exports about \$5 billion worth of fish and other seafood every year.

Our Government has a strong record of supporting Canadians who make their living on the water, and is committed to the continued success of this industry and the prosperity of the Canadians it employs. Among our accomplishments are:

- ✓ **New measures targeting fish harvesters who are not compliant with the Preserving the Independence of the Inshore Fleet in Canada's Atlantic Fisheries Policy.**

- ✓ **Ongoing maintenance and upgrades to Canada's small craft harbours – including more than 250 small craft harbour improvement projects planned over the next two years.**

- ✓ **Establishing and expanding the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program to conserve and protect Canada's recreational fisheries. The program has funded nearly 300 conservation projects across the country to date.**

A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to build on these initiatives with a focus on science, marine conservation, and promoting Canadian products in new markets including through the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Canada's most important commercial fishery is lobster, with exports generating more than \$1 billion a year. It has supported Canadian fishing families for more than a century, and plays a substantial role in the economies of coastal communities in Atlantic Canada and Quebec.

Our Government has seen the lobster fishery through good times and bad, including investing significant funds through the Community Adjustment Fund-Lobster Initiative and the Short-Term Transitional Measures Program to help the industry through the global recession. And the Atlantic Lobster Sustainability Measures Program provided support for restructuring and rationalization, as well as conservation and stewardship programs to support the long-term sustainability of the industry.

We'll continue these efforts.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will fund a new lobster branding initiative to be carried out in co-operation with the Lobster Council of Canada. This measure will support the Council's work promoting the Canada Lobster Brand both here at home and in export markets around the world. We'll also pursue new markets for Canadian lobster.**
- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will also work in collaboration with the provinces and the University of Prince Edward Island's AVC Lobster Science Centre to pursue biomass research, gaining valuable information that will inform policy decisions affecting the lobster fishery for years to come.**
- ✓ **We'll also support the Atlantic salmon fishery by confronting Greenland on the issue of overfishing Canada's Atlantic salmon stock and increasing the harvest of striped bass to improve the survival of juvenile Atlantic salmon, following receipt of an upcoming Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientific study.**

**“The actions performed thanks to the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program will enable us to implement necessary corrective measures for the recovery and rehabilitation of fish habitats to encourage recreational fisheries and restore degraded fish habitats.”**

*Regroupement des gestionnaires des ZEC de la Capitale-Nationale (March 3, 2015).*

**“The Atlantic lobster fishery is the cornerstone of our industry. This year we will invest almost \$5 million reaching new markets in Europe and Asia, improving our processes and modernizing our infrastructure. The Prime Minister has recognized our investment and commitment to this industry by making the same commitment and investment by the federal government.”**

*Louisbourg Seafoods Limited (September 10, 2015).*

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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY



Our sealing industry is of vital importance to many coastal communities, in particular among Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to pursue new and expanded markets for these products, including establishing a system of certification to demonstrate that products resulting from Aboriginal hunting meet European Union standards.**

As part of the completion of the Canada-EU Free Trade Agreement, we've committed to working with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to provide support for those affected by the elimination of minimum processing requirements (MPRs) in the fishery sector.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to work with the province to provide compensation for losses arising from the gradual elimination of these requirements. We have set aside \$280 million (\$93 million per year over 3 years) for this purpose which is intended to be matched 70:30 by the province. In the event that we cannot reach an agreement with the province to deliver a joint compensation program, we'll compensate workers directly who have been negatively impacted by MPR phase-outs.**



# Supporting Canada's forestry sector and its workers

Our great forests are among the features that define us most as a country, and our forestry industry has been a source of prosperity since before Confederation. Today, the industry supports more than 200,000 Canadian families, and contributes \$20 billion to our national GDP.

And, we're proud to say, our industry sets the gold standard for environmentally-friendly forest management. More than 160 million hectares of Canadian forest are managed by companies that have been independently certified for their progressive and sustainable management practices. In fact, almost half of all the forests in the world that are managed to this standard are in Canada – four times more than our nearest competitor.

And this hasn't gone unnoticed. A 2014 survey of international wood and wood products buyers found that Canada's forestry industry had the best environmental reputation in the world.

Still, there are some groups who continue to spread falsehoods among our industry's customers about Canadian forestry practices, sabotaging businesses and hurting the hardworking Canadians who take pride in their industry. Mills have closed, and Canadians have lost their jobs because of these actions.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will help Canada's forestry industry fight back by establishing a fund to match private-sector contributions to promote Canadian forestry products and our sustainable management practices, and to counter those who are conducting misinformation campaigns.**

This new commitment builds upon other steps we intend to take to help support Canada's forestry sector and its workers:

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to pursue untapped market opportunities to expand and diversify our export markets both here in North America and around the world. This includes renegotiating an agreement to allow our softwood lumber exports to enter the United States market.**
- ✓ **We'll continue to encourage the growth and modernization of the industry through the Forest Innovation Program, which supports research and development.**
- ✓ **And we'll continue investing in the Forest Industry Transportation Program, which supports the development of new technologies that make our forestry industry more efficient and more environmentally friendly.**

**“By this budgetary measure, the Canadian government is recognizing the forest industry’s major contribution to the country’s economy. With its 216 500 direct jobs, including some 60 000 in Quebec, the industry contributes to Canada’s GDP to the tune of nearly 21 billion dollars.”**

*Council of Quebec Forest Industry (April 21, 2015).*



# Expanding new mining opportunities

Canada is a global leader in the mining sector. From Yukon's gold to Labrador's iron, the industry provides almost 400,000 Canadians across the country with jobs that, for the most part, are the highest-paying industrial jobs in the country. It's the main business for 150 communities in rural and northern Canada, and employs the largest number, proportionally, of Aboriginal Canadians of any industry.

We're committed to ensuring this vital sector remains a source of jobs and opportunity for Canadians for generations to come.

The Mineral Exploration Tax Credit has helped junior mining companies raise more than \$5.5 billion for exploration since 2006. In 2013 alone, more than 250 companies used the credit to raise financing from 19,000 individual investors.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will extend the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for three years to support further mining exploration and investment.**

Meanwhile, the development of hundreds of potential mining projects in this great, vast country – such as the Ring of Fire in Northern Ontario and Plan Nord in Quebec – is challenged by the high cost of working far from transportation routes and supply centres.

Many of these ventures could be economic game-changers for the Canadians living in the surrounding regions.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will support economic development in these communities by establishing an enhanced Mining Exploration Tax Credit for northern and remote mining projects.**

These new commitments build on our current plan to support Canada's mining sector.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support jobs and growth in the mining industry by following through on our plan to invest further in the Targeted Geoscience Initiative, to promote increased mineral exploration by the private sector.**
- ✓ **We'll also expand the eligible costs under the Canadian Exploration Expenses policy to include environmental studies and community consultations.**

“The government has also made some strategic investments in innovation, marine safety and infrastructure that should pay dividends over time. Taken together, the federal government has maintained investments important to our sector, but also necessary to ensure Canadians capitalize when the commodities market rebounds.”

*Mining Association of Canada (April 21, 2015).*

“PDAC has long advocated for the extension of the METC beyond the historical one-year commitment, as well as measures that will address the high costs of exploration in northern and remote parts of the country. As we enter into a national election, it's a good time to focus on important policies that will help Canada succeed in the 21st century. We encourage all political parties to commit to enhancing the METC in an effort to ensure that Canada remains a global leader in mineral exploration and development.”

*Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (September 2, 2015).*



# Responsible resource development

Canada is one of the world's great energy suppliers, providing the world with everything from oil and natural gas to coal, uranium, and biofuels.

Not surprisingly, then, the energy industry is more than a source of power. Directly and indirectly providing good jobs for more than 900,000 Canadians, and accounting for almost one third of our merchandise exports, it's also a significant source of opportunity and prosperity.

But even those who don't make a living in the energy industry benefit in real, substantial ways from its success. It contributes billions of dollars every year that governments spend on the programs and services that Canadians depend upon.

✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support this crucial industry, and the many Canadians who depend on it for their livelihoods. This means not interfering in the independent project review process, and making final decisions on individual projects based on the science and recommendations of expert bodies.**

Canada is home to vast reserves of natural gas, a resource that holds immense potential for jobs and growth for generations to come if it can be exported to meet the ever-growing demands of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The most efficient way to do this is to transport it in liquefied form, which means establishing facilities to process our natural gas for shipping.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will follow through with its plan to support the creation of a Liquefied Natural Gas industry, helping investors meet their start-up costs by offering an accelerated Capital Cost Allowance on machinery and equipment used in processing facilities.**

Our Government has a strong record of co-funding investments in pre-commercial clean technology projects to help bring them to market. These investments are good for the environment and good for our economy.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support Sustainable Development Technology Canada's work to finance the development and demonstration of new, clean technologies that create efficiencies for businesses and contribute to sustainable economic development.**

**“[ACCA for LNG] is great news for the creation of LNG jobs in British Columbia, and great news for Canada .... We have been working with the federal government and industry for some time to achieve this outcome, and I am pleased they have delivered...”**

*Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia (February 19, 2015).*



# Building economic infrastructure

The founders of Confederation bound our country together with a great railway because they knew a country of this size could not function without significant investments in infrastructure. It's no different today. From highways, airports and harbours to subways, bridges and community facilities, infrastructure projects create good jobs for tens of thousands of Canadians, drive our economy, improve our quality of life, and connect us to each other.

More than 95 percent of Canada's core public infrastructure is owned by provinces, territories, and municipalities but, since 2006, our Conservative Government has made a historic commitment to supporting public infrastructure across the country. We promised in 2006 "a better approach to fixing Canada's infrastructure deficit," and we've delivered.

Federal support for infrastructure has increased dramatically under our Government. Annual federal funding has increased from \$571 million a decade ago to over \$5 billion this year. And we have launched the largest, longest-running infrastructure program in Canadian history.

Altogether, our investments in infrastructure for the years 2013-2023 will total almost \$85 billion. This level of investment is without precedent, and we've accomplished it while bringing the budget back into balance and lowering taxes.

Infrastructure is also key to trade, and Canadian products need modern infrastructure to travel efficiently to their final destinations at home and abroad. Our Government has made historic investments in improving our trade-oriented infrastructure such as ports, harbours, and rail.

Improvements include major projects at Port Metro Vancouver, the Port of Quebec, the Port of Montreal, the Saint John Harbour Bridge, and the new Gordie Howe International Bridge between Windsor and Detroit.

A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support important economic investments such as these across the country.

- ✓ **We'll launch the Quebec Maritime Prosperity Initiative to fund maritime and port infrastructure – including improvements to facilities for cruise ships and tall ships, such as the Quai Alexandra terminal in Montreal, the Ross Gaudreault terminal in Quebec City, and the restoration of Champlain – Foulon sector promenade.**
- ✓ **We'll fund key Asia-Pacific Gateway projects in Western Canada to strengthen our transport system and help Canadian businesses, including our farmers, get their products to market.**
- ✓ **And we'll support major public transit projects – such as Smart Track in the Greater Toronto Area, Light Rail Transit in Surrey and Ottawa, and Calgary's Green Line – to fight gridlock, reduce travel times for commuters and businesses, and support new economic development.**

Governing is about making choices. We have chosen to keep taxes low, balance the books, and invest in infrastructure because we know that these things are good for our economy and good for Canadians.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative government will continue to invest in core public infrastructure, to keep our economy moving forward, and to make life easier and better for Canadians.**

High-speed internet access is not just a quality-of-life issue – it's critical infrastructure that contributes to business investment, job creation, and, ultimately, economic development in rural and remote parts of our country.

**“The transit investment in this budget is good news for Canadians and marks an important achievement on a key issue they face.”**

*Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
(April 21, 2015).*

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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY

**“The commitment announced today demonstrates real progress on a key issue for municipalities, in particular rural and remote communities....If implemented, this pledge has the potential to improve the quality of broadband services in these regions by expanding access to fibre-based internet services.”**

*Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
(August 26, 2015).*

Our Conservative Government has put significant effort and investments into extending high-speed broadband access to all Canadians. Our goal is to ensure that 98 percent of Canadian households have high-speed internet service by 2017, and we're on track to meet this target.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will build on our record of expanding rural internet access by funding high-capacity backbone – such as fibre optic cable networks or satellite – in hundreds of communities across the country, allowing people and businesses in northern and rural communities to access the internet at speeds currently enjoyed by Canadians in larger urban centres.**



# Supporting Northern economic development

Canadians are a northern people; winter blows through our stories, our songs, and our sports. And the Arctic itself is a key element of our national identity. Its exploration, by great heroes like Sir John Franklin, is our history. Its vast geography is our present. And its limitless promise is our future.

One of the challenges of living in Canada's north is the high cost of healthy food. The great distance between major shipping hubs and some of our most remote communities drives up prices, making feeding a family a much more expensive undertaking than in the rest of the country.

Our Conservative Government is committed to helping people in Northern communities enjoy the kind of healthy diet all Canadians enjoy, and has invested significantly in the Nutrition North program, which subsidizes the cost of food shipped to communities in northern Canada.

But the program can be improved.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will require that all retailers have a point-of-sale system for the Nutrition North program so that Northern customers can clearly see on their grocery receipts how and when the Nutrition North subsidy is applied.**
- ✓ **We'll also extend the Nutrition North Program to 40 additional communities.**

A key part of Canada's Northern Strategy is the devolution of power related to lands and resources to northern governments. In Yukon and the Northwest Territories, which have reached agreements with the federal government to achieve this, significant prosperity, growth and opportunity have followed.

But devolution isn't just about economic success – it's about giving the people of the North more say in their own future, and greater control over their own destiny.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will commit to completing the devolution of land and resource powers to the Government of Nunavut over the next four years.**

A strong and prosperous North is key to a strong and prosperous Canada. This is why our Government has worked hard to promote economic development in the North through an unprecedented number of important investments in infrastructure, including airports, marine facilities, and roads.

These investments benefit Northerners in real and significant ways. First, making it more efficient to transport goods brings down prices, and lower prices make it easier to live, work and raise a family in the North. Second, investments in infrastructure create new jobs and opportunities for Northerners.

Better infrastructure also improves Northerners' quality of life by making it easier and safer to get around.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will build on its record of infrastructure investment by improving the section of Highway 5 running through Wood Buffalo National Park and connecting Hay River to Fort Smith, NWT – widening it, replacing drainage culverts, and hard-surfacing the last 68-kilometre stretch that currently remains a gravel road.**
- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support the Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development program to finance economic development projects in the territories.**
- ✓ **And we'll also continue to support the Northern Project Management Office to foster a more stable and attractive investment climate for resource development in the territories.**

**“The Advisory Board determined that showing the Nutrition North Canada subsidy savings on the sales receipt is an important and needed step to show clear transparency. We are encouraged that retailers have taken on the challenge, and that the Minister supports our recommendations. We remain committed to making a difference for Northerners and their families.”**

*Nellie Cournoyea, Vice Chair, Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board*

## AT RISK

Our low-tax, balanced budget plan has protected Canada's economy in the face of global economic turmoil. Canada's economic growth and job-creation record has been world-leading but conditions remain fragile and external risks threaten our financial security. Now is not the time to take our country in the wrong direction – a direction we know would expose our fragile economy, cost Canadians money, and put their jobs at risk.

Given the chance, the Liberals and NDP would expose Canada's fragile economy by:

- X Raising general taxes on job-creating businesses by billions of dollars.**
- X Hiking payroll taxes on small businesses by billions more.**
- X Imposing billions of dollars in carbon taxes on Canadian businesses that will put them at a major competitive disadvantage and raise the price of everything for Canadian consumers.**
- X Abandoning efforts to open up new markets for Canadian products.**
- X Blocking resource development so that Canada's energy resources will stay in the ground instead of being developed responsibly to generate investment and jobs.**
- X Siding with environmental special interest groups at the expense of Canada's forestry and mining sectors and their workers.**
- X Re-establishing the Canadian Wheat Board monopoly to limit choice and opportunity for Western grain farmers.**
- X Running up budget deficits and accumulating significant new debt that will undermine investor confidence, set Canada's economy back, and impose a heavy burden on future generations.**



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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR HARD-WORKING FAMILIES AND SENIORS

**To protect our economy and help families, a re-elected Conservative Government will:**

- ✓ Establish a new, permanent Home Renovation Tax Credit
- ✓ Increase the First-Time Home Buyers' Plan by 40 percent
- ✓ Aim to add over 700,000 new homeowners by 2020
- ✓ Double grants for low- and middle-income families saving for their children's education
- ✓ Provide new tax relief for single and widowed seniors
- ✓ Expand grants for families with disabled children

Families are the bedrock of our communities, and, by extension, our country. When families thrive, Canada thrives. It's always been our goal to make Canada the best country in the world in which to raise a family.

Now raising a family is hard work, and we believe it's work best left to the experts: Mom and Dad. We believe that in a Canada of low taxes, good jobs, safe streets and the opportunity to prosper, they can do the rest – and that's what we're delivering.

That's why, when it comes to taxes, our Conservative Government is committed to taking as little as possible, and giving back as much as we can – especially to lower- and middle-income families. In fact, the federal tax burden is now at the lowest level in over 50 years.

This principle has been at the heart of our Conservative Government's agenda since taking office. It's why we:

- ✓ **Lowered the GST from seven to six to five percent.**
- ✓ **Established, and then enhanced, the monthly Universal Child-Care Benefit.**
- ✓ **Provided tax relief for families who put their children in sports and arts programs.**
- ✓ **Granted tax relief for scholarships, bursaries, and textbooks to Canadian students.**
- ✓ **Extended tax relief for public transit users.**
- ✓ **Brought in Pension Income Splitting and other new tax relief for Canadian seniors.**
- ✓ **Enacted and expanded Tax-Free Savings Accounts.**
- ✓ **Introduced the \$2,000 Family Tax Cut for families with children.**

As a result of our Conservative plan, the typical Canadian family now has more than \$6,600 in their pockets every year – real benefits, real relief, that they can count on.

We understand the financial pressure that families face, and we're focused on helping these families make ends meet. Our plan leaves **every** family with children with more money in their pockets to spend on their priorities, and the long-term financial security to pursue those priorities with confidence.

We want every family to succeed, and we'll help by lowering their taxes and giving them the freedom to choose what's best for them.

And that's what a re-elected Conservative Government will continue to do.

- ✓ **We'll pass legislation imposing a “tax lock” on increases to federal income tax rates and sales tax rates, and discretionary payroll taxes over the next four years. This pledge backs our low-tax commitment with the force of the law.**



# The family home

For most Canadians, the family home is their biggest asset and their most significant investment in their future financial security. It's also the focus of their lives – where they raise their children, relax with friends and family, and enjoy their golden years.

That's why our Conservative Government believes it's vitally important to help Canadians become homeowners, to help them maintain and increase the value of their homes, and to make changes through renovations as their needs and circumstances evolve.

Our plan for affordable, responsible homeownership is working. Canada now has one of the highest homeownership rates in the world and exceeds that of the United States for the first time in decades. Homeownership is a key way to support Canadian families. And there's more we can do to help aspiring homeowners buy and invest in their homes.

- ✓ A re-elected Conservative Government will set a target to add more than 700,000 new homeowners by 2020. If this goal for affordable, responsible homeownership is reached, we'll see the number of Canadian homeowners exceed 10 million.

The Home Buyers' Plan allows aspiring homeowners to make tax-free withdrawals from their Registered Retirement Savings Plans to finance the purchase or new construction of their first home. In 2009, our Conservative Government increased the allowable withdrawal from \$20,000 to \$25,000 – the first increase since the program was established a generation earlier. This has become an important method of financing for first-time homeowners, benefiting almost 200,000 Canadians a year.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will raise the Home Buyers' Plan limit once again, from \$25,000 to \$35,000. With this increase we will continue to help families achieve the pride and stability of having a place to call their own.**

The Home Renovation Tax Credit, originally established by our Government in 2009 as a temporary measure, was a resounding success. About one in every three households took advantage of this program, saving more than three million Canadians, on average, more than \$700 each. It also pumped \$4.3 billion into our national economy, in tough economic times.

- ✓ **It was such a success story – so good for Canadian families, and so good for the Canadian economy – that a re-elected Conservative Government will enact a new permanent Home Renovation Tax Credit, available each year for substantial home renovation expenses up to \$2,500, beginning in January 2017, and \$5,000, beginning in January 2019.**

Given the importance of homeownership, our Government wants to make sure it remains a dream within reach for the average Canadian family. Some reports have suggested that speculative foreign non-resident buyers are a significant factor in driving homes out of the price range of average families, especially in Vancouver and Toronto. If speculators are driving up the cost of housing to unaffordable levels, that's something the government can and should address. Other countries, like Australia, have put in place regulations that limit the ability of foreign buyers to purchase existing houses for investment purposes.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will compile comprehensive data on the acquisition of Canadian real estate by foreign non-residents and temporary residents, and, if this is contributing to putting the dream of homeownership out of reach of Canadians, we'll work in coordination with provincial governments to take the appropriate action.**

**“The Home Buyers’ Plan has helped so many Canadian families realize their dream of home ownership. Today’s commitment to increase the withdrawal limit of the HBP will ensure that the dream stays within reach for today’s young people.”**

*Canadian Real Estate Association  
(August 12, 2015).*

**“We are glad that the importance of home renovation to the Canadian economy has been introduced into the election campaign. A permanent tax credit is sound policy for all Canadians, helping homeowners protect and add value to their homes, while also addressing the chronic problem of the underground ‘cash’ economy in home renovations and repairs.”**

*Canadian Home Builders Association  
(August 4, 2015).*



# Saving for a child's education

Part of ensuring Canadian children get the best possible start in life is helping their parents begin saving for their future education.

Our Conservative Government has a solid record of making it easier for families to save and prepare for their children's education, including providing tax relief on scholarships and bursaries, and targeting student grants to low- and middle-income students.

One of the ways we've helped families is through Registered Education Savings Plans. These plans allow Canadians to invest money tax-free until it's time to pay that first tuition bill. Because we realize how important this is, our Conservative Government has contributed significantly to Canadian families' RESPs, through matching grants.

In 2014, we helped 2.59 million children invest in their future, including 900,000 children from low- and middle-income families who received enhanced, targeted grants.

But we want to help even more.

A re-elected Conservative Government will:

- ✓ **Double the enhanced grant for middle-income families from 10 cents to 20 cents per dollar on the first \$500 contributed each year.**
- ✓ **Double the enhanced grant for lower-income families from 20 cents to 40 cents per dollar on the first \$500 contributed each year.**

These enhancements could mean as much as \$2,200 more per student or roughly a half year's tuition costs in additional government support, assuming a reasonable rate of return.

This new commitment builds on policies in our Economic Action Plan 2015 that will make life easier and more affordable for post-secondary students and their families including:

- ✓ **Eliminating in-study income from the Canada Student Loans Program assessment so that students can work, earn money, and gain valuable experience while studying without affecting their loan eligibility – helping 87,000 students per year.**
- ✓ **Reducing the expected parental contributions from the Canada Student Loans Program assessment to better recognize the financial realities faced by Canadian families – increasing support to approximately 92,000 students.**
- ✓ **Expanding the number of low- and middle-income students eligible for the Canada Student Grant program by making these grants applicable to short-term, vocational programs.**

**“Canada’s post-secondary students are welcoming extensive new measures in the 2015 federal budget that will enhance access to post-secondary education and improve long-term employment prospects for Canadian youth.”**

*Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (April 21, 2015).*



# Saving for a secure retirement

Canadians know the value of saving, whether it's for a car, for college or university, for a family vacation, or just for a rainy day. And we believe in encouraging Canadians to save, which is why we've expanded significantly their ability to do so.

No two families are exactly alike, and imposing a one-size-fits-all approach to saving would be wrong for Canada and wrong for Canadians. Instead, we're making it easier for Canadians to save money in whatever way works best for them and their families. We want all Canadians to be able to dream big, knowing their hard-earned money will be there for them when they need it.

Saving for retirement is major priority for Canadians. That's why our Conservative Government has consistently lowered taxes to leave Canadians with more take-home pay and expanded the range of voluntary options for them to save for their future.

Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSAs) have become the single most important personal savings vehicle in decades. Nearly 11 million Canadians have opened an account and the total value of assets held is about \$120 billion. Low- and middle-income Canadians have benefited significantly – about half of TFSA holders earned less than \$42,000. Put simply: TFSAs have become a place where almost one in three Canadians keep and grow their dreams.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will protect the TFSA and the recent doubling of the annual contribution limit to \$10,000 per year.**

We'll also take further steps to help Canadians save for retirement and to lower taxes on Canadian seniors by:

- ✓ **Giving seniors significantly greater flexibility in managing their retirement income by reducing the minimum withdrawal requirements for Registered Retirement Income Funds.**
- ✓ **Raising the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption from \$500,000 to 750,000 to \$800,000 and indexing it. We'll raise it to \$1 million for farmers and fishermen to help them with succession planning and their retirement.**
- ✓ **Consulting with Canadians on how to supplement the range of savings options with voluntary Canada Pension Plan contributions.**

**“The improved outcomes for older Canadians resulted from far more than government policymaking. Canadians, as individuals, have shown good judgement in managing their retirement, drawing on resources both inside and outside the formal pension system.”**

*Former Statistics Canada economist Philip Cross (April 2014).*

**“Two-thirds of CARP members are in favour of increasing the Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) contribution limit. The support for increasing the TFSA limit is rooted in concern for adequate retirement income, and any measure that encourages it is favoured, the organization says. TFSAs have particular value for retirees who can no longer contribute to RRSPs and for lower-income earners who do not benefit as much from tax-deductible RRSP contributions.”**

*CARP (February 27, 2015).*



# Tax relief for single and widowed seniors

Canadian seniors have earned our gratitude for a lifetime of hard work in service to our families, our communities, and our country. They have helped make Canada the strong and prosperous country that it is today, and they deserve to enjoy their senior years in dignity and financial security.

Our Conservative Government has cut taxes and is making life more affordable for Canadian seniors, including single and widowed seniors. We've:

- ✓ **Introduced Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSAs), which 2.7 million Canadian have now opened. Income earned and withdrawals from TFSAs don't affect eligibility for the Age Credit, Old Age Security, and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.**

- ✓ Enhanced the TFSA in 2015 to allow Canadians to contribute up to \$10,000 each year, with seniors to receive 60 percent of the benefits from this new contribution limit.
- ✓ Enacted Pension Income Splitting for seniors to benefit more than 2.2 million Canadian seniors each year, with average federal tax relief of \$900 annually.
- ✓ Improved the rules for Registered Retirement Income Funds to allow seniors to preserve more of their retirement savings.
- ✓ Increased the Age Credit amount by \$2,000, to provide up to \$1,055 in annual tax relief for seniors.

- ✓ Announced the biggest increases in a generation to the Guaranteed Income Supplement to help Canada's most vulnerable seniors.
- ✓ Doubled, to \$2,000, the maximum amount of income eligible for the Pension Income Credit.
- ✓ Created, in 2015, a new, permanent Home Accessibility Tax Credit for seniors that provides up to \$1,500 in tax relief each year.

The results of our low-tax, balanced budget plan for Canada's seniors are clear.

- ✓ Since 2006, we have cut taxes on Canadian seniors by \$3 billion each and every year.
- ✓ Almost 400,000 seniors have been removed from the tax rolls completely.
- ✓ And now a single senior can earn at least \$20,360 and a senior couple at least \$40,720 before paying any federal income tax.

Yet single and widowed seniors are among Canada's most vulnerable citizens and face unique financial challenges. The cost of living can be high for single seniors living on a fixed income. And when a senior becomes widowed, he or she can lose access to some benefits their spouse received and can face difficult financial circumstances as a result.

- ✓ In response, a re-elected Conservative Government will establish an "equivalent-to-spouse" Pension Income Credit for single and widowed seniors. This \$2,000 Single Seniors Tax Credit will extend tax relief to nearly 1.6 million single and widowed seniors.

Through this new tax relief, our Conservative Government is making an affordable, targeted commitment to Canada's single seniors, who deserve our respect and financial support.

**“This new tax relief will bring fairness for single seniors. Some of our members have told us that because they are single they are unable to get tax relief by splitting their pension income for tax purposes like their married friends. Single seniors, usually women, will welcome this news, especially those who are caring for a dependant such as an adult child or parent.”**

Susan Eng, Executive VP, CARP (September 15, 2015).



# Help for Canadians with disabilities

The moms and dads who care for a child with a disability make incredible sacrifices and carry tremendous workloads in the name of love. For these families, making sure a loved one with a disability is financially secure is a real concern. We have a responsibility to help ensure that their kids lead lives as fulfilling as any other Canadian.

That's why, in 2008, thanks to the vision of the late Jim Flaherty, our Conservative Government established Registered Disability Savings Plans. These plans allow the families of children with disabilities, and those children themselves as they grow up, to set aside money for the future in a place where it can grow with them, tax-free, until it's needed.

Canadians have opened nearly 105,000 of these accounts since then – and through the Canada Disability Savings Grant and the Canada Disability Savings Bond programs, we've added more than \$1 billion to their savings.

But we can do more.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will increase the maximum annual grant for low- and middle-income families from \$3,500 to \$4,000. This means that these families will now receive a matching grant of \$4 for every \$1 contributed, on the first \$500 they contribute each year.**
- ✓ **We'll also continue to work with the provinces and Canada's financial institutions to improve the administration of the RDSP program, and to expand the range of investment options for RDSP holders.**

We'll take these additional steps because when your loved one's future is financially secure, you're better able to focus on the important things that matter in the present.

This measure builds on our record of helping Canadians with disabilities fulfill their potential.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support our three-year partnership with the Canadian Association of Community Living to help connect people with developmental disabilities with jobs.**
- ✓ **We'll also continue our four-year partnership with the Sinneave Family Foundation and Autism Speaks Canada to expand vocational training programs for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.**
- ✓ **And we'll continue to support the Autism Spectrum Disorder Working Group's work to develop a Canadian Autism Partnership. We'll be ready to support the initiative in areas of federal jurisdiction once the development work is complete.**

**“Jim Flaherty designed the RDSP with elegant simplicity....In effect, Jim Flaherty is the first Canadian politician to say, ‘I trust people with disabilities to make the right decisions with their money.’ He was right...Jim Flaherty understood because he was the father of a son with a disability. I believe this fuelled his determination to leap over out-of-date mentalities toward people with disabilities....He was making it better up until his last budget.”**

*Al Etmanski, “Thanks to Jim Flaherty, disabled Canadian can fulfill their dreams,” Globe and Mail (April 16, 2014).*

**“We thank the leaders who collaborated across the country to advance the Canadian Autism Partnership. CASDA and its members applaud the Government of Canada, with special thanks to Prime Minister Harper, Minister Oliver and Honourable Mike Lake, M.P, in investing and recognizing the importance of a united approach to address the unique needs of the Canadian autism community.”**

*Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance April 2015).*



# Supporting every family

Families come in different shapes and sizes and have different needs. Our Conservative Government has consistently supported all families – we think that's real fairness.

This support includes adoptive families. About 3,000 children are adopted in Canada every year but, at any given time, there are about 30,000 children within this country alone in need of stable homes filled with love, and thousands of Canadian families waiting to invite them into their hearts and lives.

We recognize that adoption costs can be high and in some cases prohibitive for families. That's why we've:

- ✓ **Expanded the Adoption Expense Tax Credit.**
- ✓ **Extended EI parental benefits to foster parents who choose to adopt.**

- ✓ **Cut backlogs and wait times for adopted children as part of our immigration reforms.**

We'll continue to support adoptive families in giving children a loving home.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will increase our support for these caring Canadians, by increasing the amount eligible for the Adoption Expense Tax Credit from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per child, and by making this tax credit fully refundable.**

The birth of a new baby is an exciting time for all involved, especially moms and dads. It's also a period of tremendous change for parents as they adjust their work and home lives to the new responsibilities of parenthood.

Our Conservative Government wants to support parents during this critically important period. Increasing job flexibility is one way to support moms and dads who want to spend as much time as possible with their babies as they grow and take their first steps. Some parents also see the transition to parenthood as a good time to pursue their entrepreneurial instincts. That's why a re-elected Conservative Government will:

- ✓ **Expand Employment Insurance maternity and parental benefits and federal leave provisions to increase flexibility for new parents and encourage those with self-employment goals.**
- ✓ **New parents in federally regulated sectors will be provided with job protection to care for a baby up to 18 months of age, allowing workers to take up to 6 months of additional unpaid leave.**
- ✓ **Parents can opt to receive their EI parental benefits at the full rate for up to 35 weeks, or they can extend those payments at a lesser rate up to a maximum of 61 weeks. When combined with other EI maternity leave, this can provide parents with a stream of income for 18 months while caring for their babies.**
- ✓ **A new two-year pilot project will be established to allow parents to earn self-employment income, without impacting EI maternity or parental benefits, up to 100% of the weekly EI maximum insurable earnings threshold.**
- ✓ **Women receiving EI maternity benefits will also be able to earn employment income under the Working While on Claim pilot project. This is currently permitted for those receiving EI parental benefits.**

We'll also continue to support choice in childcare and help families make whatever arrangements are right for them. This is the underlying basis for our monthly Universal Child Care Benefit and our other support for childcare including the Child Care Expense Deduction.

## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR HARD-WORKING FAMILIES AND SENIORS

**“Good announcement Prime Minister Harper, thanks for listening to Saskatchewan’s concerns. More money in pockets of ALL families with kids... To clarify, all families with kids will see a \$720/year increase to Universal Child Tax Benefit, regardless of income or marital status. That's good.”**

*Brad Wall, Saskatchewan Premier (October 30, 2014).*

**“[The Society] applauds the government for extending compassionate care benefits in today’s federal budget, calling it a critical step towards ensuring family caregivers in Canada get the financial support they need. The Canadian Cancer Society congratulates the government for this important commitment which will make the lives of family caregivers easier.”**

*Canadian Cancer Society (April 21, 2015).*

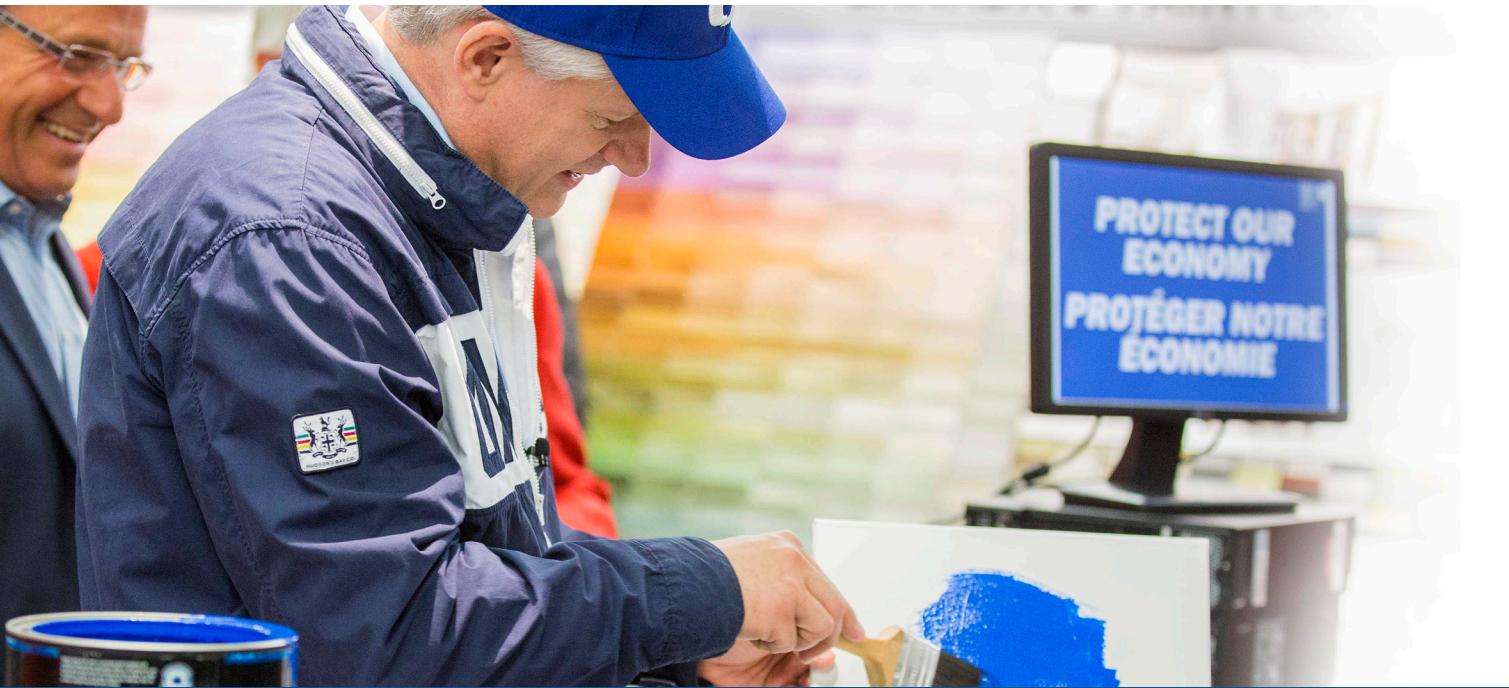
- ✓ A re-elected Conservative Government will implement our plan to increase the Child Care Expense Deduction by \$1,000, beginning this year. This means that the maximum amount that can be claimed will increase to \$8,000 from \$7,000 for children under age seven, to \$5,000 from \$4,000 for children aged seven through 16, and to \$11,000 from \$10,000 for children with disabilities.
- ✓ And, of course, we’ll continue to maintain our Universal Child Care Benefit that provides monthly cheques to all parents, up to nearly \$2,000 per year for children under age 6, and more than \$700 per year for children aged 6 to 17.

Families help each other. Sometimes Canadians are called upon to care for a gravely ill family member. Such situations can be challenging financially, and no one should ever have to choose between caring for a loved one and keeping their job.

Our Conservative Government has taken several steps to help families faced with a family health crisis such as enacting the Family Caregiver Tax Credit and establishing a special 35-week benefit for parents with critically ill children.

But there is more to be done. When a family member is gravely ill and needs care, Canadians should be free to focus on caring for their loved ones without the added stress of worrying about their financial security.

- ✓ A re-elected Conservative Government will carry out our plan to extend the Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefits period from six weeks to six months.



# Protecting consumers

Canadians work hard for their money and rightly expect, as consumers, to be treated fairly when it comes to matters of quality, safety and choice.

We're committed to ensuring that they are.

A re-elected Conservative Government will proceed with several measures to protect consumers' wallets, and their health and safety. We'll:

- ✓ **Pass legislation that allows the Minister of Transport to issue motor-vehicle recalls and to demand that manufacturers repair defective vehicles as required, as well as levy significant fines on manufacturers and importers who do not comply.**
- ✓ **Continue to take action to create greater consumer choice in the wireless sector, so that Canadians can enjoy lower prices and improved quality when it comes to cellphones, tablets, and wi-fi services.**
- ✓ **Pass legislation to grant the federal Competition Commissioner the authority to investigate geographic differences in prices, with the intent of reducing the “price gap” between Canadian and American consumer goods.**
- ✓ **Move forward with comprehensive legislation to protect consumers in financial transactions. This will include banning “pay to pay” practices, in which financial institutions charge their customers a fee for making payments on their mortgages, credit cards, or other loans.**

- ✓ Continue our efforts to assess and manage the risks posed to the health of Canadian families and our environment by new or existing chemical substances. This will include listing microbeads as a toxic substance under the *Environmental Protection Act*, effectively banning them in Canada.

Our Government in 2014 passed *Vanessa's Law*, named after the daughter of Member of Parliament Terence Young. Vanessa died of a heart attack while taking a prescription drug that was later found to be unsafe for human consumption, and Terence spent the next 14 years working tirelessly to ensure that this law became his daughter's legacy.

*Vanessa's Law* is historic legislation that gives the Government stronger powers to force drug recalls, imposes new penalties on companies that market unsafe products, requires that health risks be made clear in product labelling, and requires health-care institutions to report serious reactions to prescription drugs.

- ✓ Still, *Vanessa's Law* could go further. For example, we should impose on health-care institutions a more comprehensive, standardized reporting regime when documenting such reactions. A re-elected Conservative Government will move forward with making this important legislation even more effective at protecting Canadian families.

These measures build on our past record of standing up for consumers, including:

- ✓ Supporting Canada's broadcast regulator in compelling satellite and cable companies to "unbundle" TV channels, so that Canadians no longer have to pay for channels they don't want.
- ✓ Removing the GST from feminine hygiene products.
- ✓ And continuing to oppose any new "Netflix tax" on on-demand video services.

**“I'm proud of the great strides our Government has taken to improve drug safety for Canadians. It's great that we are asking Canadians what information they need access to, and making it clear to industry what's expected of them. This will definitely reduce adverse drug reactions and help ensure Canadians take prescription drugs more safely.”**

Terence Young, Member of Parliament  
(April 2, 2015).

## AT RISK

Our Conservative Government has worked hard to make life easier for Canadians. Taxes are lower. Benefits are higher. And Canadian families have more freedom than ever before to choose their own path to prosperity. We know that no two families are alike, but all families have this in common: Given the opportunity, they'll make the choices that are right for them. The other parties don't share our optimism, nor our faith in the sound instincts and common sense of our fellow Canadians.

Given the chance, the Liberals and NDP would put the financial security of Canadian families in jeopardy by:

- X** **Running large deficits and raising taxes that will leave our fragile economy exposed, cost families money, and put jobs at risk.**
- X** **Eliminating the Family Tax Cut which is providing up to \$2,000 in tax relief for 1.7 million families.**
- X** **Taking away the monthly Universal Child-Care Benefit which is providing nearly \$2,000 per year for children under age 6, and more than \$700 per year for children aged 6 to 17. The UCCB goes to all the nearly four million families with children.**
- X** **Shutting down in part or in whole Tax-Free Savings Accounts which are helping 11 million Canadians save and grow their savings tax-free.**
- X** **Cancelling Pension Income Splitting which is providing over \$1 billion in tax relief to more than 1 million senior couples.**
- X** **Hiking payroll taxes – as much as \$1,000 per year for someone making \$60,000 – on Canadian workers.**
- X** **Driving up the price of everything Canadian families buy, including gasoline, groceries, and home heating fuel, by imposing carbon pricing schemes on the Canadian economy.**



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# OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A MORE SECURE CANADA

## To keep Canadians safe and secure, a re-elected Conservative Government will:

- ✓ Enact “Declared Areas” legislation to prosecute foreign fighters
- ✓ Continue to participate in the broad international coalition against ISIS
- ✓ Support persecuted religious minorities around the world
- ✓ Defend Canada’s Northern sovereignty
- ✓ Expand Canada’s Reserves and Special Operations Forces

Our Conservative Government understands that protecting Canadians’ physical security is as important as protecting their financial security. The two ultimately go hand-in-hand. We can’t have a strong economy if Canadian communities aren’t safe and secure. And we can’t have real security if we don’t have the means to pay for our law enforcement agencies or our military. A strong economy, then, is the basis for our prosperity and our security.

We’ll continue to vigorously pursue an anti-terrorism agenda that seeks to disrupt and undermine radical jihadism in cooperation with the countries who share our values. In addition to Canada’s military participation in the global coalition to degrade and ultimately destroy the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, we are taking strong action against terrorism at home.

We'll also continue to follow a principled foreign policy and stand up for what's right rather than what's popular. In a dangerous and unstable world, we need a government that recognizes risks to Canadian interests and our security and speaks with clarity. And we've done that. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been a leader on a wide range of global issues including standing up for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression, defending Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state and to defend itself, and speaking out against the persecution of religious minorities and women and girls around the world.

And it's why we've ensured that the Canadian Armed Forces have the equipment and resources they need to protect and defend our security. We've made significant investments in Canada's military following the Liberal "Decade of Darkness". We owe the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces our unyielding gratitude and respect, and we'll continue to make sure that they have the resources to get the job done.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue its efforts to protect the security of Canada and Canadians at home and abroad.**



# Combating jihadi terrorism

When the global terrorist movement threatens Canada and Canadians not just abroad, but at home, that is when we most need moral clarity and tough leadership. We need to confront and address this threat and call it what it is – a force for evil that seeks to undermine our way of life and the values we hold dear. This clarity and determination to act to protect our country has been at the heart of our counter-terrorism measures here at home.

- ✓ Our Conservative Government released Canada's first Counter-terrorism Strategy in 2012, Building Resilience Against Terrorism, designed to counter domestic and international terrorism and protect Canadians and Canadian interests.

- ✓ In 2013, the **Combating Terrorism Act** made it a criminal offence to leave or attempt to leave Canada for the purposes of participating in or facilitating terrorist activity.
- ✓ In 2014, the **Citizenship Act** was amended to enable the government to revoke Canadian citizenship from dual citizens and deny it to permanent residents who are convicted of terrorism, high treason, treason or spying offences.
- ✓ The **Protection of Canada from Terrorists Act** of 2015 gives the Canadian Security Intelligence Service the tools it needs to investigate threats to the security of Canada and ensure our collective safety.

- ✓ **The 2015 Anti-terrorism Act ensures that Canadian law enforcement and national security agencies can effectively investigate and counter those who promote terrorism and take part in terrorist activities, prevent terrorist travel by air and the efforts of those who seek to use Canada as a recruiting ground, and disrupt planned attacks on Canadian soil.**

Sadly – and inexplicably, to most Canadians – a small number of young Canadians choose to turn their backs on our country, our values, and all the opportunities that living here brings, and travel abroad to connect with known terrorist organizations. Some participate in the atrocities these groups carry out in foreign lands; others seek to plot and commit similar horrors on Canadian soil. Canadians expect real action on the part of the government to prevent such attacks.

We need to protect Canadians here by making sure the “foreign fighters” who travel to parts of the world where terrorists hold sway are not allowed, on their return to Canada, to act on the warped ideologies and deadly skills they’ve learned.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will introduce “Declared Areas” legislation, allowing the Minister of Foreign Affairs to identify any part of the world where terrorists are active as a “no-go” zone for Canadians without legitimate business there. Travel to designated zones would become a serious offence, carrying a significant prison term, and would allow Canadian authorities to arrest and detain foreign fighters upon their attempted return to Canada.**

To counter terrorism and youth radicalization in Canada through research and education, our Government launched the Kanishka Project in 2011. Funded projects identify factors that build community resilience and help youth to resist violent extremism.



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- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to address the growing problem of terrorist radicalization and violent extremism among Canadian youth by renewing funding for the Kanishka Project for another five years.**

Treason, one of the oldest and most serious crimes on the books, has evolved since it was first codified into English law in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Originally an attack against the reigning monarch, it came to encompass turning against one's own state.

Now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we are witnessing the alarming emergence of a new form of treason. “Foreign fighters” who are mostly young men, including some Canadians, abandon life in the West to join global jihadi groups abroad in their war against our country and our allies.

Canadians see this as a betrayal of our most deeply held values and, indeed, as an attack on all of us. There is no greater crime than the betrayal of one’s fellow citizens, and our laws need to reflect this.

- ✓ **Our current laws call for life in prison for anyone convicted of High Treason. A re-elected Conservative Government will modernize the definition of High Treason to include fighting against the Canadian Armed Forces alongside jihadist terror groups.**



# The fight against ISIS

The so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria – or ISIS – is the greatest threat to Canadian security today. It wages war daily on everything we hold dear: freedom, democracy, tolerance, and openness. It seeks to destroy any and all who do not share its perverse, medieval view of the world. And, with alarming clarity, it has threatened Canadians directly and specifically.

Last year's terrorist attacks in Canada, by killers inspired by ISIS's extremism, are a reminder that we are not immune to these threats.

Canadians did not invent this evil, nor did we invite its hatred, but we cannot ignore it in the hope it goes away. Indeed, it was because ISIS met with little resistance at first that it was able to establish its so-called caliphate with such alarming speed.

It's now using that territory to launch and inspire attacks around the world; its goal is to replace civilization with savagery, and order with chaos.

We must not allow ISIS to hold a safe haven from which it can pursue an agenda of anarchy and violence.

That's why the Canadian Armed Forces, alongside like-minded allies of all faiths and nationalities, are part of a broad international coalition confronting and disrupting ISIS in the Middle East right now. We're fighting the jihadists there to protect Canadians here.

We're also a leading contributor of support to the countless men, women, and children forced to flee ISIS's advance. We don't have to choose, as some have suggested, between fighting the soldiers of ISIS and helping its victims. In fact, it's imperative that we do both. And we are.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will not cut and run, as our opponents would do. We will not abandon our allies in the broad international coalition against ISIS. We will not pull our troops from the fight against jihadi terrorism.**

**“Today I would like, here, not to add on what has been said about Daesh (ISIS) and its brutal attacks, I would like to thank Canada, people in government, for receiving the Iraqi refugees and for the generosity that they have offered to them to give them a new hope for their life. I would like also to thank all of the financial aid that has been given to Iraq and Syria, unfortunately more needed to be done, but priorities should be always given to defeating Daesh so the people can return to their homes and resume their normal lives.”**

*Bashar Warda, Archbishop of the Chaldean Diocese of Erbil in Iraq, (August 10, 2015).*



# Protecting persecuted minorities around the world

Our Conservative Government has consistently stood up for, and supported, persecuted minorities around the world. We've made a real difference in the lives of religious minorities and young girls and women. And we've shown leadership in accepting refugees and providing humanitarian assistance.

This is an important part of our principled foreign policy. A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to stand up for those who are targeted because of their faith or gender.

Freedom of religion and belief, and the ability to express that freedom without fear of repercussion or repression, is a basic human right – not just here in Canada, but everywhere. Our Government established the Office of Religious Freedom in 2013 to promote this belief globally, and to advocate tolerance and pluralism around the world. These values have made

Canada great, and our Government takes very seriously the work of advancing them.

However, a world of universal freedom of religion remains elusive, and there is much work left to do. Almost 75 percent of the world's population lives in countries where religious freedom is highly restricted.

Currently, ISIS has carved out a so-called caliphate extending from Aleppo in Syria to near Baghdad in Iraq – and everywhere they hold sway, innocent men, women and children suffer atrocities daily because they don't share the terrorists' perverted version of Islam. Christians, Yazidis, Druze, Alawites, Sunni Bedouins and Shia Ismailis all face subjugation, persecution, and, frequently, grisly execution for their beliefs.

Through the Office of Religious Freedom, in partnership with civil society groups and non-

governmental organizations, we are able to stand up for these oppressed peoples, and for Canadian values. Principle demands that we act.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will build on our record of promoting tolerance and openness, as well as the rights of women and children worldwide, by funding a new three-year program within the Office of Religious Freedom to support persecuted religious minorities in the Middle East, and to protect their places of worship and priceless artifacts at risk of destruction.**

The ISIS reign of terror and the horrific civil war being fought in Syria have taken an immense toll on innocent civilians, creating a refugee crisis of historic proportions.

The Canadian Armed Forces are taking an active and robust role in the fight against ISIS, but we're also committed to providing comfort and aid to suffering people facing displacement and persecution because of the ongoing violence.

Canada has long been a refuge for people fleeing violence and oppression, from United Empire Loyalists and fugitive slaves from the United States in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, to Eastern Europeans and Vietnamese "boat people" fleeing communism in the 20<sup>th</sup>. And in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Canada is once again opening its doors to those in need.

We've pledged to resettle 10,000 Syrian refugees by September 2016, and 3,000 Iraqis this year. They will join the 20,000 Iraqis who have already arrived on our shores since 2009. Religious minorities within Iraq are at risk of genocide at the hands of ISIS, and Canada will provide safe haven.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will accept 10,000 more persecuted Syrian and Iraqi refugees fleeing the brutality of ISIS.**
- ✓ **We'll also provide further humanitarian assistance through the Syria Emergency Relief Fund to match individual donations from Canadians up to \$100 million.**

**“Girls and women continue to remain seriously disadvantaged across the Commonwealth. The Canadian government’s international advocacy efforts to prevent child, early and forced marriage are already drawing attention to this major challenge.”**

*Dr. Asha S. Kanwar, President and Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth of Learning, (July 8, 2015).*

Every year, millions of girls around the world – some as young as five years old – are forced into marriage. This is far more than just a moral outrage; it is often a matter of life and death. In the developing world, the leading cause of death among girls between the ages of 15 and 19 is complications during childbirth.

Forced marriage deprives girls of their right to an education, and condemns them to a life of poverty and dependence.

And forced marriage is also a weapon of war. Canadians are rightly appalled at reports of ISIS fighters taking young female prisoners as “brides,” or forcing families to let them marry their daughters in exchange for protection from further ISIS depravities.

Canada has been a leader in improving maternal, newborn and child health, and protecting women and girls is a key component of our foreign development goals.

It’s also in keeping with Canadian values, which we hold to be universal. Forced marriage is unacceptable in Canada, and we’ve taken action to prevent it from occurring on our soil. But it’s equally unacceptable anywhere else in the world, no matter what the misguided advocates of “cultural sensitivity” might suggest.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will take further action to support the victims of child, early, and forced marriage, particularly in the “rape camps” and slave markets of Iraq and Syria, by establishing a new program within the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development to fund efforts to combat these practices.**

Improving the health of mothers, newborns, and children around the world has been Stephen Harper's top development priority. The Prime Minister has been leading the world on this important initiative. And there's been progress: thanks to Canadian leadership and global action, maternal mortality rates are declining and millions more children are celebrating their fifth birthday.

Yet there's more work to be done. That's why our Government has pledged significant resources to maternal, newborn, and child health from 2015 to 2020.

- ✓ **We'll continue to rally world leaders to follow Canada's lead in improving women's and children's health in developing countries.**

**“Canada has been a tremendous partner over the last several years in partnering to improve health equity around the world through its focus on MNCH, and our foundation looks forward to our continued close partnership with the Canadian government over the next 15 years.”**

*Melinda Gates, Co-Founder, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, (January 23, 2015).*



# Cyber security

Advances in technology have led to vast improvements in our standard of living, but they have also led to our greater dependence on a digital infrastructure that underlies everything from our communications networks to our financial systems to our electrical grid. And this dependence makes us vulnerable to attacks that could compromise our day-to-day living, our personal safety, our economy, and even our national security.

The threat of cybercrime is one with serious consequences for Canadians and our economy. Our Conservative Government has been focused on strengthening our cyber security to protect Canadians.

Since 2010, our national cyber security strategy has been based on three pillars:

- ✓ **Securing government systems.**

- ✓ **Partnering to secure vital cyber systems outside the federal government.**
- ✓ **And helping individual Canadians and their families enjoy increased online security.**

In Economic Action Plan 2015, we announced significant funding to protect our vital cyber systems, including establishing a dedicated RCMP team to investigate cybercrime.

Still, there's more to be done. Our cyber systems can be targets for foreign military and intelligence services and criminal and terrorist networks. As more and more Canadians rely on the internet for business and sales, we must ensure that we're protected from cyber-attacks and cybercrimes.

We've proposed legislation that will require operators of vital cyber systems to implement robust cybersecurity plans that meet established standards, and to report cybersecurity breaches to the federal government.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will enshrine this in law by passing the *Protection of Canada's Vital Cyber Systems Act* when Parliament resumes.**

**“Cyber security is a shared responsibility, so I am pleased about this important step forward to enhance our collaboration with the Federal Government on this important issue. These advancements to the Strategy will ensure our essential systems have the latest threat information, as well as help us to continue to build on each other's strengths.”**

*Canadian Council of Chief Executives,  
(July 22, 2015).*



# Supporting Ukraine

Canada stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and will continue to do so. Our position has been clear: We will never accept Russian President Vladimir Putin's unwarranted and illegal occupation and annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, nor his continued proxy war in other parts of eastern Ukraine.

The people of Ukraine have left no room for doubt: The future they desire lies to the West, with all the freedoms, opportunities and prosperity that brings. We, along with our allies in NATO, support them without reservation, and we stand together in Central and Eastern Europe as a bulwark against the instability Vladimir Putin promotes with his reckless provocations.

With the rest of the Western world, Canadians celebrated the end of the Cold War and the years of peace that followed. But Vladimir Putin wants to turn back the clock; he wants Russia to bask

in the perceived glories of its past, in order to disguise his failures of leadership in the present. We look forward to the day when Russia returns to the community of nations – but until then, Vladimir Putin's belligerence must be met with resolve and real consequences.

Under our Conservative Government, Canada has been a leading voice on the world stage in this regard, both in speaking out against Vladimir Putin's unprovoked aggression and in putting pressure on Russia through tough and meaningful sanctions.

Such sanctions are a key tool in our Government's foreign policy, having proven effective against Iran and North Korea, as well as Russia.

A re-elected Conservative Government will toughen Canada's sanctions regime by:

- ✓ **Adding “gross human rights violations” as a new ground for sanctions.**
- ✓ **And closing loopholes that allow sanctioned individuals to circumvent travel restrictions.**

These measures will reinforce our support for the Ukrainian people in their struggle for freedom, as well as strengthen our ability to respond to international crises, and align our sanctions regime with our broader values. They'll also reinforce our commitment to standing up for freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law abroad.

To make sure our sanctions continue to be properly targeted, and properly implemented, we need to better track the flow of Russian capital through global markets – in particular capital connected to Russian state-owned enterprises and individuals already under sanction.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will establish a financial task force of foreign policy experts and financial analysts to perform this task, ensuring that our sanctions regime maintains its rigor and limits Russian influence in the global economy.**

But our support for Ukraine extends far beyond sanctions. Canada has contributed both Canadian Armed Forces personnel and much-needed equipment to assist the Ukrainian military in its fight to maintain Ukraine's sovereignty. We're:

- ✓ **Deploying CAF personnel to western Ukraine to develop and deliver training programs for their Ukrainian counterparts.**
- ✓ **Contributing an array of non-lethal supplies, including tens of thousands of coats, pants and boots, helmets, protective vests, high-frequency radios, night-vision goggles and ballistic eyewear, medical kits and a mobile field hospital structure, tents, and sleeping bags.**

**“In international forums such as the UN, the G7 and NATO, as well as in bilateral decisions related to providing Ukraine with military trainers, Canada has consistently and meaningfully demonstrated its support for Ukraine’s right to sovereignty, territorial integrity and to ensure the security of its citizens....Today, Canada stands among Ukraine’s greatest friends, something deeply cherished by the people of Ukraine.”**

*Paul Grod, President, Ukrainian Canada Congress, (June 9, 2015).*

**“Since the very beginning of the crisis the government of Canada has adopted the most principled position of any G-7 country...it has been steadfast in providing increased support to the Ukraine politically, financially and now with this so much needed non-lethal lifesaving equipment. Thank you for this support which is needed so much right now and more importantly for doing the right thing.”**

*Ihor Kozak, League of Ukrainian Canadians (August 7, 2014).*

- ✓ **Providing \$1 million to the NATO Trust Funds for Ukraine, intended to enhance the country’s command and control capabilities.**
- ✓ **Deploying military personnel as part of Operation REASSURANCE, including HMCS Regina, HMCS Toronto, and HMCS Fredericton, and participating in military exercises.**

Canada continues to stand with Ukraine in the face of Russian provocation and aggression, and will never accept the Russian occupation of Ukrainian soil. The measures we have taken to date are robust and meaningful, but there is more we can do.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will enter into a defence co-operation agreement with Ukraine.**
- ✓ **We'll also add Ukraine to the list of eligible countries for Canadian military and defence exports.**

Our Government, as part of our principled foreign policy, has long been a leader in promoting free expression and human rights around the world, and in speaking out against dictatorships for their cruel and undemocratic actions. The digital world is one more battlefield in that struggle.

Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and illegal occupation of Ukraine has been accompanied by a remarkable propaganda push by Moscow. Russia has used the internet and other media to manipulate public opinion and spread misinformation and falsehoods.

By spreading half-truths, rumours and outright lies, the Kremlin not only confuses opponents but also sows unwitting and uninformed support for its cause.

Canada can do more to help Ukraine push back against Russian propaganda.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will establish a Digital Freedom Fund to support international groups and independent media using digital tools to advance the causes of freedom and democracy around the world. In particular, the fund will support efforts to counter Russian propaganda in Ukraine and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.**





# Supporting Canada's military

Canada's Armed Forces have been central to the story of our country for more than 200 years – central to our national identity, central to our success as a country, central at times to our very survival. And in the ever more insecure world in which we are now living, that is as true as it ever was.

We live in an unpredictable world, and the Canadian Armed Forces must be ready to respond immediately to events that threaten the interests of Canada at home and around the world. Canada's fighting men and women have always been, and remain today, the ultimate guarantors of our values and freedoms.

To ensure that the CAF can carry out its missions, we've:

- ✓ **Re-built the "core military capabilities" of the CAF following a decade of darkness under the Liberals. The CAF's air transport, sovereignty surveillance and army combat capacities have all been strengthened.**
- ✓ **Taken the steps needed to rebuild the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Coast Guard through the comprehensive National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy worth some \$35B. With ships now being built in both Halifax and Vancouver, the NSPS engages Canadian industry from coast-to-coast in sustaining RCN and Coast Guard fleets in the decades to come.**

- ✓ **Resolutely defended Canada and our friends overseas against a growing terrorist threat by deploying military forces to participate in the military coalition led by President Obama against ISIS.**
- ✓ **Taken a firm stand against Russian aggression in Ukraine by establishing a Canadian military training mission there, and also by supporting deterrence in Europe in conjunction with our NATO allies.**

A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support and stand up for Canada's military because they're the ones who stand up for us. This support includes an \$11.8 billion, ten-year increase to the Department of National Defence's budget to ensure that Canada can continue to field a combat-ready military to serve at home and abroad.

Missions abroad sometimes fall to Canada's Special Operations Forces, who have the agility and adaptability to tackle any challenge, anywhere in the world. When duty calls, the CAF is always there for us and our allies, and our Special Operations Forces are the sharp end of the spear.

Right now, members of the Special Operations Forces are in Iraq, training and advising Kurdish Iraqi forces in the fight against the so-called Islamic State – confronting them there, to protect Canadians here at home.

But no matter what the task, from training allies to carrying out hostage negotiations, from responding to terrorist threats to taking direct action against Canada's enemies, grateful Canadians can count on the men and women of the Special Operations Forces to stand up for Canada when the need is greatest.

- ✓ **To help the Special Operations Forces maintain their top operational capacity, a re-elected Conservative Government will expand their size, bolstering their ranks by nearly 35 percent by 2022.**



The military reserves have a long and proud history in Canada, dating to before the War of 1812, serving with distinction in every conflict in which Canada has been involved. When the Primary Reserve and the Supplementary Reserve are combined with the Canadian Rangers and Cadet organizations across the country, Canada has 24,000 men and women ready, willing and able to answer their country's call.

The reserves are a vital part of our military structure, supplementing the Regular Forces and providing "surge" capacity when required. Reservists accounted for one in four of our men and women who served in Afghanistan, and some have already served in our mission against ISIS in Iraq.

The reserves are also an important part of our communities; they're the pride of more than 100 cities, towns and villages from coast to coast to coast. And they've always been there for Canadians when duty calls at home, including providing emergency response to natural disasters like floods, forest fires, and ice storms.

- ✓ **Their service to our country is indispensable, and to ensure the Reserves have the numbers necessary to carry out the many duties asked of them, a re-elected Conservative Government will increase the number of reservists by 15 percent, bringing the Reserves' total strength to 30,000 in the next four years.**
- ✓ **We'll also streamline and shorten the current reserve recruiting process, improve training opportunities for reserve personnel, and broaden the eligibility criteria to include permanent residents in order to tap into this significant pool of possible recruits and facilitate their path to full Canadian citizenship.**



# Strengthening our military assets and institutions

Supporting Canada's military means ensuring that they have the assets, training, and resources needed to do their jobs safely.

Our Conservative Government has made major investments to upgrade and improve our military's readiness after the Liberal Decade of Darkness, with its budget cuts and neglect that imperiled our military and left Canadians less safe.

We won't let that happen again. A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to invest in Canada's military and support the men and women who put their lives on the line for their fellow citizens.

Since its founding in 1952, Royal Military College Saint-Jean (College Militaire Royal de Saint-Jean) has been preparing young Canadians for careers in the Canadian Armed Forces and beyond.

The College began granting university degrees in 1985. But it fell victim to Liberal cuts to defence spending, and closed ten years later.

Our Government partially re-opened the College in 2008 as a CEGEP organized to prepare Quebec Cadets for post-secondary education – in particular studies at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario.

But we want to see the College once again achieve its full potential, and do more to encourage a new generation of Francophone military officers.

- ✓ **If re-elected, we'll honour Quebec's historic and present-day contributions to the Canadian Armed Forces by re-establishing Royal Military College Saint-Jean as a full, degree-granting post-secondary institution similar to RMC in Kingston. We'll work with the Government of Quebec to fulfill this promise.**

HMCS Discovery – located adjacent to Stanley Park – was constructed in World War II from the Vancouver Half Company of the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve. Its initial purpose was for the recruitment and training of almost 8,000 personnel during the war.

Discovery continues to serve an important role in training, and as the headquarters for several Reserve and Cadet Units.

Our Conservative Government recently announced enhancements to the facility that will expand the Navy and Coast Guard's capacity to conduct search-and-rescue operations as well as oversee response to marine pollution incidents in the Vancouver Harbour area.

- ✓ **If re-elected, we'll build on these efforts by rebuilding and expanding Royal Canadian Navy reserve division base HMCS Discovery in Vancouver, positioning it to become a major Maritime joint operations centre for the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Coast Guard. HMCS Discovery has a proud history with the RCN, and this construction will respect the current facility's historic architecture.**

The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River aren't just iconic in terms of geography – they're defining elements of our history, and part of the reason for Canada's growth into a great trading nation. With the development of the St. Lawrence Seaway, they became our gateway to the world.

Now, commercial vessels make more than 2,000 trips through the Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Seaway system every year. They generate a staggering \$34 billion in economic activity in Canada and the United States, and support more than 200,000 good, stable jobs.

Given the vital importance of this system to our national economy, and the access it provides to our most populated areas as well as Canada's industrial heartland, it's imperative that the Royal Canadian Navy have a presence on these waters.

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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A MORE SECURE CANADA

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- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will build on our commitment to our national security by commissioning four Royal Canadian Navy patrol vessels, to be dedicated to the Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence Seaway.**

This investment will allow for training on the Great Lakes and help with recruitment and retention in the Naval Reserve and Sea Cadets. Presently about half their membership is based in the Saint Lawrence-Great Lakes region, in Ontario and Quebec.



# Northern sovereignty

The North has achieved immense geopolitical significance, and corresponding increased interest from foreign powers, demanding a Canadian presence to back up our legal and historic claims to its lands and waters.

We have taken important steps to date, including expanding the Canadian Rangers, establishing an Arctic Training Centre in Resolute, modernizing patrol aircraft and expanding our air transport fleet, procuring Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships, and launching the construction of the John G. Diefenbaker polar icebreaker.

Still, there is more to be done. Our Conservative Government will continue to make protecting our Northern sovereignty a major priority. The choice is to "use it or lose it," and that lies at the heart of our Arctic foreign policy: In the

North, exercising our sovereignty through effective military capability, active diplomacy, and sustainable economic development is our number-one goal.

Since the end of the Second World War, the Canadian Rangers, as part of the Canadian Armed Forces reserve, have been our eyes and ears in the North, serving in national security and public safety capacities. (Their apt motto is *Vigilans*, which means "The Watchers.")

For all those years, the Rangers have been issued No. 4 Lee-Enfield rifles. The Lee-Enfield's history of service to the Canadian military is matched only by its sturdy reliability under Arctic conditions, but the time has come for its replacement. That's why our Government is replacing the Rangers' Lee-Enfields with new rifles over the next four years.

The Lee Enfield has taken on iconic status, a proud symbol of both Canada's distinguished military history and our sovereignty over the Arctic – much like the Rangers themselves.

- ✓ **When the new, modern firearms are issued, a re-elected Conservative Government will honour the Canadian Rangers and their long service by transferring ownership of the Lee-Enfields to the Rangers they have served for so many years.**

The Junior Canadian Rangers program, in which Canadian youths aged 12-18 learn camping, navigation and firearms training as well as a greater appreciation of traditional Northern culture and lifestyles, is approaching its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Permanently established in 1998, there are now more than 135 Junior Canadian Ranger patrols in remote and isolated communities across the North.

- ✓ **Our Government increased the number of Junior Rangers participating in this popular and worthy program from 3,400 to more than 4,200 in 2008. If re-elected, we'll increase their number yet again, to 5,000, in time for the organization's 20th anniversary.**

## AT RISK

Our Conservative Government has made Canada safer and more secure in a troubled and dangerous world. We recognize the threat posed by jihadi terrorism and have made the choices and investments – including supporting the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces – to protect the country. Prime Minister Harper’s principled foreign policy also means that Canada walks tall in the world and stands up for what’s right and just. The Liberals and NDP would take the country down a much different and more dangerous path. They would undermine Canada’s security by:

- X Taking away the tools that we have granted our law enforcement agencies to protect Canadians from terrorist threats.**
- X Pulling out of the broad international coalition against ISIS that’s keeping the fight against this deadly group outside of our borders.**
- X Returning to a “Decade of Darkness” of defence spending cuts that would hurt the Canadian Armed Forces and weaken our national defence.**
- X Abandoning our principled foreign policy that stands up for Israel and other allies such as Ukraine in exchange for a “go-along-to-get-along” approach that weakens our country and diminishes our moral standing.**



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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR SAFE STREETS

## To keep Canadian streets safe, a re-elected Conservative Government will:

- ✓ Enact “Life Means Life” legislation to ensure the worst criminals never get a chance at parole
- ✓ Expand our National Anti-Drug Strategy
- ✓ Crack down on criminal gangs
- ✓ Protect seniors from financial fraud

For too long, Canada's system of justice had its priorities backwards: it focused on the so-called “rights” and concerns of criminals, while victims and their families were left on the outside looking in. We've worked hard to reverse that, in particular by bringing into force our ground-breaking Victims Bill of Rights. Now victims and their families are back where they belong – at the heart of our justice system. Never before has a government made victims' concerns such a priority.

Add to that a substantial list of other measures from our ambitious law-and-order agenda – to protect our children from predators and drug dealers, to keep dangerous criminals behind bars and off our streets, and to keep illegal guns, gangs, and drugs out of our communities – and it's no wonder that the crime rate is going down.

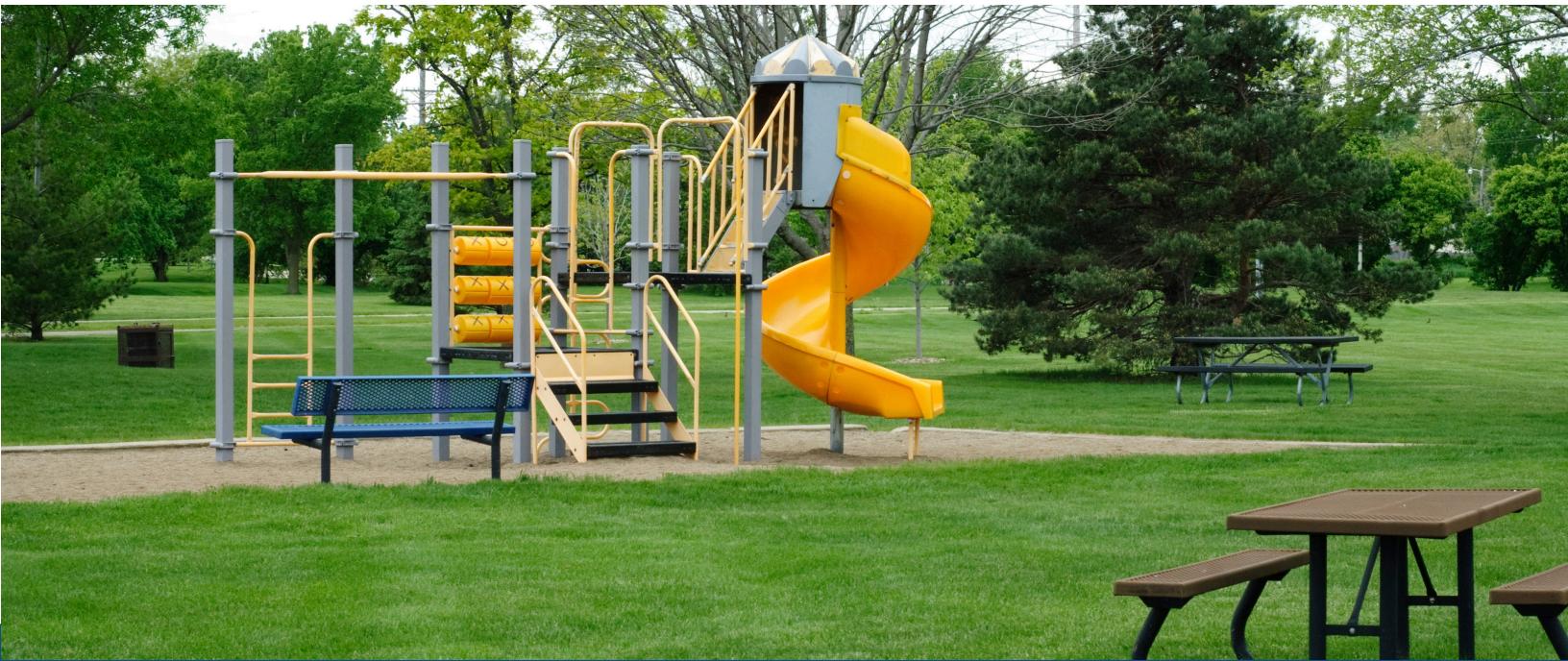
Justice is a fundamental Canadian value, and Canadians expect it to be administered fully, fairly, honestly and transparently. So do we.

But the Liberals and NDP don't. Justin Trudeau's only criminal justice priority is to change the law to allow the sale of marijuana in corner stores, making it more accessible to our children. And the NDP has a dangerous, ideology-driven criminal justice policy that puts the so-called “rights” of criminals ahead of the rights of victims. The soft-on-crime NDP have consistently opposed serious penalties for dangerous offenders.

Canadians can count on our Conservative Government to put their security first. We share the common-sense beliefs of law-abiding Canadians, and we will continue pursuing new measures to crack down on criminals and support victims.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to make safe streets and communities a top priority.**





# National Anti-Drug Strategy

One vitally important part of keeping our streets and communities safe is keeping them free from drugs, and from the organized gangs that prey on addicts and profit from drug abuse.

Our Conservative Government's National Anti-Drug Strategy set out to reverse years of inaction by previous governments – indeed, in some cases, years of making the problem worse. We've taken a three-pronged approach, focusing on prevention, treatment, and enforcement.

To this effect we've:

- ✓ **Toughened penalties for serious drug producers and dealers, including mandatory minimum prison sentences for some offences.**
- ✓ **Introduced legislation to reduce drug trafficking and abuse in our prisons.**

- ✓ **Increased the resources for law-enforcement and justice officials to investigate drug crimes and prosecute offenders.**
- ✓ **Worked hard to raise awareness, especially among young Canadians, of the dangers of drug use.**
- ✓ **And provided significant support for treatment, to help people who've fallen prey to addiction.**

We renewed funding for the National Anti-Drug Strategy in 2012, and in 2014 expanded the Strategy's focus to include the abuse of prescription drugs.

A re-elected Conservative Government will build on this record by expanding the National Anti-Drug Strategy to:

- ✓ **Create a national toll-free help line to provide parents with advice and guidance, including how to recognize the signs of drug use and how to prevent their children from using drugs in the first place.**
- ✓ **And increase funding to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Clandestine Laboratory Teams, which investigate drug labs and target organized crime.**

There is evidence of a strong link between mental illness and drug use: 30 percent of people diagnosed with a mental disorder also have a history of substance abuse at some point in their lives.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will ask the Mental Health Commission of Canada, as part of its new, 10-year mandate announced in Economic Action Plan 2015, to work with the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse to further integrate initiatives involving mental health and substance abuse.**

Mental illness is a challenge that touches the lives of millions of Canadians. One in five will feel its effects in any given year; one in three will experience it at some point in their lifetime. The effect on Canada's economy has been estimated at close to \$50 billion a year. The cost to individuals and families can only be measured in heartache and despair.

That's why, in 2007, our Government established the Mental Health Commission, with a broad 10-year mandate to improve Canada's mental health system, and to increase awareness of mental health issues, and it's why we are committed to renewing that mandate in 2017.

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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR SAFE STREETS



Along with a new focus on the intersection of drug abuse and mental health, a re-elected Conservative Government will set out other priorities for the Commission.

- ✓ **Nearly 4,000 Canadians take their own lives every year. Suicide is the second-most common cause of death among teens, and the leading cause of death among Aboriginal Canadians under the age of 44. More than 90 percent of people who commit or attempt suicide are struggling with mental health issues, substance abuse, or both. The Mental Health Commission of Canada will study community suicide-prevention programs, including in First Nations communities, to test their effectiveness.**
- ✓ **The Commission will also prioritize working with groups who, for a number of reasons, experience mental illness at a higher level than the rest of the country, including veterans and members of Canada's First Nations.**



# Targeting criminal gangs

Youth gang crime is a serious concern across the country. It poses an obvious danger to law-abiding Canadians, but the damage is even further-reaching. Young Canadians who get involved in criminal gangs risk seeing the recklessness of youth become a wasted adulthood in our prison system, if they survive at all.

Our Conservative Government has been clear: Our first priority is the safety and security of our streets and communities, and anyone who puts that in jeopardy must face the full force of the law.

To this effect, we've established an extensive legislative record targeting youth gangs, and organized crime more generally.

- ✓ **We've legislated mandatory minimum penalties for gang-related drug crimes and offences involving firearms.**

- ✓ **We've amended the Criminal Code so that all murders connected to organized crime are automatically first-degree murders, and we've created a new offence targeting the reckless criminal use of firearms, in particular drive-by shootings.**

- ✓ **And we've passed a law establishing tougher penalties for criminal gang recruitment.**

It's a criminal offence to belong to a gang and to participate in gang activities. But there's no established list of gangs in Canada, meaning the existence of particular gang as a criminal organization must be proven anew in every case.

Parliamentary committees have recommended that we establish a gang listing system – similar to the way we deal with terrorist groups – and the Government of Manitoba has recently listed the

Hells Angels as a criminal organization. We think this idea has merit.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will establish a criminal gang listing process to help crack down on gangs and speed up the justice system.**

We are also working hard to prevent young people from joining gangs in the first place. In 2006 we launched the Youth Gang Prevention Fund, to support organizations that intervene directly with at-risk youth. These organizations steer youth away from joining gangs or, in some cases, support them as they get out.

The funds from this program, which we made permanent in 2011, are put to a wide range of uses, from renting space and training staff to mentoring, counselling and skills development, and more.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will increase resources to the Youth Gang Prevention Fund by 25 percent, to allow it to help even more young people avoid a life of crime.**



# Protecting seniors from fraud

The email says they've won the lottery – but they need to pay a processing fee up front to collect their winnings. That new friend they met over social media, who eases their loneliness, would love to visit in person – but needs money to buy a plane ticket. The voice on the phone claims to be a grandchild who's hit a rough spot while backpacking in Europe and needs cash in a hurry.

The number of tricks con artists have used to separate seniors from their hard-earned savings is bewildering and distressing. And when you combine scams like these with other types of fraud – from business swindles to identity theft – Canadians lose an astonishing \$10 billion to \$30 billion to fraudsters every year.

The RCMP, in co-operation with the Competition Bureau and the Ontario Provincial Police, funds the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre to combat these

types of crime. But as technology becomes more sophisticated, it also becomes more and more challenging to keep on top of the problem.

- ✓ **To combat fraudsters who target Canadians, a re-elected Conservative Government will provide more resources to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre to bolster its intelligence and disruption activities, in particular online fraud targeting Canadian seniors.**

We'll also toughen the punishment for con artists who steal money from Canadians. In 2011, our Government passed the *Standing Up for Victims of White Collar Crime Act*, which imposes a mandatory minimum prison sentence of two years for criminals who commit fraud involving more than \$1 million. It also instructs judges to consider restitution when handing down a sentence.

In 2013, we passed the *Protecting Canada's Seniors Act*, which makes the age of the victim or victims an aggravating factor at sentencing time.

But jail time for the perpetrator doesn't make the victims financially whole again. The most important thing to them is that they get their money back.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will amend the Criminal Code to make any financial fraud over \$5,000, with multiple victims, carry a mandatory minimum sentence of two years in prison, unless the offender makes full and complete restitution to his or her victims.**

**“[CARP] members most want their funds returned, followed by seeing the perpetrator in jail or having the perpetrator personally repay the funds when asked for the ideal outcome.”**

CARP (March 24, 2015).



# Life Means Life and other justice priorities

Like most Canadians, we hope for the successful rehabilitation of people who have fallen into a life of crime. But our first priority is the safety and security of Canadians and the communities where we live, work, and raise our children.

There are some criminals so dangerous that, once imprisoned, they must never again walk the streets among us.

Currently, a life sentence – even for the most violent killers – comes with the chance of parole after 25 years. When these criminals are given the opportunity for parole, Canadians’ faith in our justice system is shaken, and the families of victims are forced to relive the horror of their loss all over again.

Our proposed Bill C-53, the *Life Means Life Act*, will ensure that offenders who are convicted of the most heinous murders or those who are convicted of high treason will be imprisoned for

the rest of their natural lives with no access to parole. This includes murders involving sexual assault, kidnapping, terrorism, the killing of police officers or corrections officers, or any first degree murder of a particularly brutal nature.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will make passing the *Life Means Life Act* its top criminal justice priority when Parliament resumes this fall.**

And while reintroducing and passing the *Life Means Life Act* is our top justice priority, it is just one of several measures our Government is proposing to further protect the safety of Canadians and the security of our communities:

- ✓ The *Dangerous and Impaired Driving Act* will reflect the gravity of this offence in the minds of most Canadians, and make the letter of the law match its spirit by limiting the use of technical defences in impaired driving cases and simplifying proof of blood alcohol concentration. It will also make the punishment match the severity of the crime for a wide range of transportation-related offences, including increased penalties for drunk drivers.
- ✓ The *Removal of Serious Foreign Criminals Act* will make it easier and faster to deport dangerous foreign nationals who commit serious crimes in Canada; to transfer these foreign criminals back to their home countries; and will make foreign criminals ineligible for a pardon.
- ✓ The *Penalties for the Criminal Possession of Firearms Act* will restore mandatory minimum penalties for the illegal possession of a loaded prohibited or restricted firearm, such as fully automatic weapons, sawed-off rifles, or handguns, for the purpose of committing a serious offence or in a place where there is a real risk of harm to innocent bystanders. This will apply the full force of the law to offenders who engage in serious criminal behavior while exempting law-abiding gun owners who store their weapons legally.
- ✓ The *Protection of Communities from the Evolving Dangerous Drug Trade Act* will allow the Government to respond quickly and effectively to the emergence of new illicit substances appearing on Canadian streets; broaden existing criminal laws related to the possession, production, or sale of substances or equipment intended to produce illegal controlled substances; and enhance the inspection, monitoring, and regulation of legal controlled substances to prevent their diversion for illegal ends.

**“Habitat for Humanity Canada is proud to be partners with a Government that is creating positive change for low-income families who buy Habitat’s affordable homes and for CSC offenders who want to give back to society. This partnership truly reflects Habitat’s core belief that a ‘hand up, not a hand out’ gives people self-worth and an opportunity to improve their lives and the lives of their families.”**

*Habitat for Humanity (November 14, 2012).*

- ✓ **The Victims Rights in the Military Justice System Act builds on our historic Victims Bill of Rights by ensuring that victims of service offences within the military justice system have the same rights as are contained in the civilian Victims Bill of Rights.**

A re-elected Conservative Government will reintroduce these measures in Parliament and make sure they become the law of the land. And we'll continue to do more to protect Canadians, including taking new action to address the problem of habitual, chronic offenders.

In addition, we'll build on our record of ensuring offender accountability and the principle of earned parole.

We're committed to helping most inmates in Canadian prisons prepare for successful reintegration into society after their release by offering opportunities for vocational training.

For those offenders who show that they're ready for reintegration we'll help provide marketable skills prior to release that encourage rehabilitation and lessen the chance that they'll re-offend.

Since 2012, a partnership between Correctional Services Canada and Habitat for Humanity has been a success on both fronts. More than 350 inmates have volunteered to work on more than 20 housing projects, ranging from work on kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities to full construction of pre-fabricated homes.

- ✓ **Encouraged by these results, a re-elected Conservative Government will expand the partnership between Correctional Services Canada and Habitat for Humanity, doubling the number of projects over the next four years.**



# Protecting Canadians and supporting victims

Our Conservative government has done more than any previous government in Canadian history to protect children and support victims of crime. Upon taking office in 2006, we inherited a system that was concerned more with criminals than with victims. It had to change. And that's what we've been doing.

Some of our concrete steps to protect children include:

- ✓ **Supporting Child Advocacy Centres and Child and Youth Advocacy Centres to coordinate the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse and to help child victims with counselling and other services.**
- ✓ **Passing the Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act to combat child sexual exploitation.**

✓ **Bringing in the *Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act* to protect Canadians, and in particular youth, from online exploitation and cyberbullying.**

✓ **Increasing penalties for sexual offences against children and creating two new offences aimed at conduct that could facilitate or enable a sexual offence against a child.**

✓ **Strengthening the sex offender registry.**

✓ **And investing \$14.2 million a year to protect children from predators through the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet.**

But we can do more by working with victims' advocates such as Sheldon Kennedy to protect children and help those who have been victimized by crime.

- ✓ A re-elected Conservative Government will double funding for Child Advocacy Centres and Child and Youth Advocacy Centres, and will dedicate resources to help existing Centres provide satellite services to communities outside of urban centres and those without a Centre.
- ✓ We'll also set aside funding for research into the "invisible" economic and social damage inflicted upon victims of crime.

These investments in front-line support for victims and children will help those who have been impacted by crime and ensure that they have the support and assistance they need.

High-profile cases of human trafficking and cyber and sexual violence against women and girls are reminders that we must ensure that Canada is safe for all Canadians.

Our Conservative Government has a strong record of protecting Canada's women and girls from violence and providing support for those affected by it. This includes:

- ✓ Making a \$100 million, 10-year investment to prevent, detect, and combat family violence and child abuse.
- ✓ Launching the Action Plan to Address Family Violence and Violent Crimes Against Aboriginal Women and Girls.
- ✓ Strengthening our justice system by passing the *Protecting Victims from Sex Offenders Act*, to protect all Canadians, including women, from repeat, violent or sexual offenders, and the *Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act*, which aims to protect girls and young women from early and forced marriage.
- ✓ Nearly doubling support to end violence against women and girls, through community-based projects as part of the Women's Program under Status of Women Canada.

**“I just want to say thank you for that announcement and thank you for the focus on victims. I think for a long time people have never understood the impact of the invisible damage....I think that what you've done and what's been done over the years has taken it [supporting victims] out of a box-check and been put into a priority and that's where we need to be – so thank you.”**

Sheldon Kennedy (September 18, 2015).

## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR SAFE STREETS

**“The Salvation Army applauds the government of Canada’s announcement and the commencement of a National Action Plan to combat Human Trafficking in Canada. We anticipate greater cooperation among the judiciary and the police, opportunities to build awareness of the cause and develop opportunities to educate all Canadians to the entrapment and enslavement of its victims. Most importantly we welcome a plan that enhances the support for the victims of these horrible crimes, their fight to escape and the struggle to, rebuild their lives, regain the liberties that have been taken from them and the opportunity to grow into survivors.”**

Major Brian Venables, Salvation Army of Canada, (June 6, 2012).

These concrete, practical steps are helping to protect women and girls so that they can pursue their dreams and opportunities.

But unfortunately there’s more work to be done.

Human trafficking is a global blight that ensnares an estimated two million people every year – with some estimates putting the number of victims, mostly women and children, at as many as 15,000. Frequently, victims are drawn into forced labour or prostitution.

This terrible crime is an affront to Canadian values, stripping from its victims their freedom, their basic rights, and their human dignity, most often under threat of violence or death.

Our Conservative Government has worked closely with law enforcement officials, civil society organizations, and community and religious groups to combat human trafficking. We’ve passed legislation to restrict significantly the sex trade in Canada, including the scourge of child prostitution. We’ve established mandatory minimum prison sentences for child trafficking. We’ve raised the age of consent from 14 to 16.

And we’ve provided substantial funding for the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, which co-ordinates and supports efforts to bring traffickers to justice and to provide comfort and assistance to their victims.

But we can – and we will – do more.

A re-elected Conservative Government will:

- ✓ **Renew the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking when it reaches the end of its current mandate in 2016.**
- ✓ **Increase funding to efforts to help women escape the sex trade.**
- ✓ **Establish February 22 as Canada’s “Anti-Human Trafficking Day” – the anniversary of the unanimous decision by Parliament in 2007 to condemn all forms of human trafficking and slavery.**

- ✓ **And, using the team of human trafficking investigators led by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Montreal as an example, establish similar police teams in Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Vancouver.**

In Canada, men and women are equal under the law. It's one of the values that makes Canada a land of opportunity and prosperity, a country that attracts countless immigrants from all around the world.

Sadly, there are some newcomers who embrace the promise of Canada, but not those values that make this country great, and who import certain brutal practices – most often affecting women and girls – that have no place here, or anywhere.

The tragic truth is that certain practices, such as female genital mutilation, so-called honour killings, polygamy, and early and forced marriages, are taking place within some cultural communities in Canada.

That's why our Government was proud to pass legislation that enshrines our aversion to these practices, and gives law-enforcement officials the power to prevent many of them from occurring on Canadian soil.

But these cruelties too often are carried out in the shadows, out of sight of the authorities. And members of Canada's cultural communities who expose these practices risk ostracism, or worse, as a result of coming forward.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will establish a tip line allowing Canadians to alert the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to suspected cases of female genital mutilation, so-called honour killings, polygamy, and early and forced marriages.**
- ✓ **And we'll mandate the integrated teams of Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Vancouver to investigate these cases.**



## AT RISK

Our Conservative Government is committed to keeping Canada's streets and communities safe for Canadians and their families. Since 2006, we've introduced and passed over 60 substantive pieces of legislation to help keep criminals behind bars, protect children, put the rights of victims ahead of criminals, and crack down on drugs, guns, and gangs. The result is that our streets are safer, our children are better protected, and victims are where they belong – at the center of our criminal justice system.

The Liberals and NDP don't share our vision. They make excuses for criminals and think incarceration – for public safety reasons, or even as punishment – is rarely warranted. The Liberals' top justice priority is to change the law to allow the sale of marijuana in our corner stores, making it more accessible to our children. Given the chance, the Liberals and NDP would:

- ✗ **Get rid of mandatory minimum penalties for violent repeat offenders.**
- ✗ **Stop our *Life Means Life Act* to remove the possibility of parole for the most brutal and violent criminals.**
- ✗ **Establish so-called “safe” injection sites in our communities, bringing serious drugs into our neighbourhoods and closer to our children.**
- ✗ **Legalize marijuana and prostitution and the criminal underground that they fuel.**



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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES

## To strengthen Canada's communities, a re-elected Conservative Government will:

- ✓ Implement our historic investment in public infrastructure
- ✓ Provide tax relief for those who belong to service clubs
- ✓ Continue to support Canada's universal, publicly-funded health care system
- ✓ Fund cutting-edge health research
- ✓ Support conservation and economic development in rural Canada
- ✓ Continue to strengthen Canadian citizenship
- ✓ Impose a moratorium on Senate appointments

Our Conservative Government shares the pride all Canadians feel in living in the greatest country in the world. We're committed to building a future of hope and opportunity for our children and grandchildren.

We know that a strong economy is the foundation for strong communities and a strong and prosperous country. As a government we have taken real action to protect our economy and promote an enviable quality of life in all communities – cities, towns, and rural areas. We're:

- ✓ Making historic investments in community infrastructure, to support economic development and local recreation and activities.
- ✓ Providing significant new resources to support Canadian veterans who are affected by disability or injury, and those who wish to transition back into civilian life.

- ✓ **Promoting charitable giving, community partnerships, and voluntarism because we know Canadians are generous people and that local challenges are often best solved by community action.**
- ✓ **Celebrating Canada's rich history and culture to give us a powerful sense of national accomplishment, shared sacrifice, and collective aspirations.**
- ✓ **Promoting arts, culture, and sport to bring vitality and economic development to our communities.**
- ✓ **Providing unprecedented financial support for Canada's universal, publicly-funded health care system.**
- ✓ **Supporting critical research on health issues that touch all Canadians such as cancer and diseases that affect the brain.**
- ✓ **Partnering with Canada's outdoors community to conserve our country's unique natural environment.**
- ✓ **Taking practical, effective common-sense steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.**
- ✓ **Undertaking important reforms to help Canada's First Nations participate more fully in Canada's economy.**
- ✓ **Strengthening Canadian citizenship to protect and reaffirm its value.**
- ✓ **And protecting our democracy and improving our public institutions.**

These important steps have protected our economy and contributed to a more prosperous, more dynamic, and more united Canada. We're proud of what we've accomplished together. But there's much more to be done.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support Canadian communities according to their unique needs and priorities.**



# New Building Canada Plan

You've been hearing a lot of talk about infrastructure spending lately – but it's a conversation our Conservative Government has been leading for years. Everybody else is finally catching up, in recognition of the fact that good infrastructure is vital to our country, our communities, and our day-to-day quality of life.

What was true at the time of Confederation remains true today: ambitious investment in infrastructure is key to protecting our economy and moving it forward.

Investing in infrastructure is about more than roads and bridges, ports and public transit, or water treatment facilities and community recreation centres. It's about building healthy and prosperous communities. It's about making it easier for hardworking Canadians to get to work, to do business, and then to get home to their families again. And it's about creating countless good jobs.

But while the other parties are talking, our Government has been acting. We took the federal Gas Tax Fund, doubled it, indexed it, and made it permanent. We established the Building Canada Plan, and expanded and extended it into the New Building Canada Plan.

Combine all this with spending on federal infrastructure and the Public Transit Fund announced in Economic Action Plan 2015, and our investments in public infrastructure are unprecedented in Canadian history and are three times higher than under any previous federal government. In fact, Canada has led the G-7 in infrastructure investments since our Conservative Government took office. And we're positioned to invest more than \$80 billion in federal, provincial and municipal infrastructure over the next 10 years.

As a result of our investments in infrastructure, we have brought the average age of Canada's core public infrastructure down from a peak of 17 years in 2001 to an estimated 14.7 years in 2013. It's now lower than the historical average over the last 50 years.

That doesn't matter to our opponents. They're telling you they'll spend even more. But what they won't tell you is how they'll pay for it. The real answer is that they don't know, and don't care. They'll raise your taxes. Or run up debt. Or both.

We have made historic investments in infrastructure, but we have done it without crippling our economy and hurting Canadian families. In fact, we've done it while lowering taxes and balancing the books.

✓ **And we'll continue to make these crucial, historic investments, through our ten-year, \$84 billion New Building Canada Plan and federal infrastructure investments to support community infrastructure – without saddling our grandchildren with the bills.**

**“Sustained investment in infrastructure is critical to Canada’s long-term economic growth. The investments announced today will help governments across Canada continue the process of infrastructure renewal and set Canada on the path to a more globally competitive economy.”**

*Michael Atkinson, Canadian Construction Association, (March 21, 2013).*



# Standing up for Canada's veterans

The men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces do us proud, day in and day out, and they deserve all the gratitude and support we can give them. But that doesn't end when they leave military service. Every Canadian veteran deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. As the needs of our veterans evolve, so must our response to those needs – whether it's helping them transition back to civilian life and work, or navigate the health care system. Veterans risked all to give us the peaceful, prosperous country we enjoy today, and that's a debt we can never begin to repay.

That's why our Conservative Government has made significant improvements to the New Veterans Charter to improve programs, benefits and services for the men and women who have worn our military's uniform so proudly. These improvements include:

- ✓ **Opening new, frontline mental health clinics across the country.**

- ✓ **A new Retirement Income Security Benefit for veterans over the age of 65.**
- ✓ **A new Family Caregiver Relief Benefit.**
- ✓ **A new Critical Injury Benefit.**
- ✓ **A new and better Permanent Impairment Allowance.**
- ✓ **Enhancing the Earnings Loss Benefit.**
- ✓ **Hiring new case managers and new employees to improve processing times.**

In fact, we've increased the amount spent per veteran by 35 percent – and we'll continue to make investments to improve frontline service for Canadian veterans.

We've also provided more assistance to veterans making the transition to civilian employment,

and more support for those who have suffered disabilities in the course of their service to Canada.

But we can do more.

The Earnings Loss Benefit is a taxable monthly entitlement paid out to injured veterans who are either participating in a rehabilitation program or are unable to find suitable employment due to the nature of their injuries, to ensure that their income remains at least 75 percent of their gross pre-release military salary. There are currently 1,860 veterans receiving this benefit.

Any outside income earned by a veteran who cannot be suitably employed once he or she finishes a rehab program is currently clawed back dollar-for-dollar – a real disincentive for veterans who would otherwise want to take on a different kind of work. This limitation deprives them of the challenge and dignity of a job and their communities of the benefit of their skills and talents.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will allow veterans receiving the extended Earnings Loss Benefit to earn up to \$10,000 in employment income annually without affecting their benefit.**

The record-of-service card – the NDI 75 – is issued to members leaving or who have left the Canadian Forces with 10 or more years of service. The card is proof of previous military employment and can be used as proof of service with the Department of Veterans Affairs and for companies and service providers that offer special benefits for former service members.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will issue a new Canadian Veteran Card to all Canadian Armed Forces members who complete basic training. This will reduce red tape for those seeking veterans services and make it easier to receive veteran benefits. The Canadian Veteran Card will also serve as official government identification.**





# Voluntarism and civil society

Our Conservative Government has a strong record of supporting charitable giving and civic engagement. We know that there's more to our communities and our country than government and so we're helping Canadians give back to their communities and support one another.

We've introduced the First-Time Donor's Super Credit, made it easier to donate stocks and real estate, provided tax relief for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, and established the Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards to recognize Canadians who have made invaluable contributions to their communities.

We will continue to support voluntarism, because we know it's such a source of strength for Canada and our communities.

Hundreds of thousands of Canadians devote countless hours to their communities through

membership in various service clubs active in Canada. From the Lions to the Elks, from the Knights of Columbus to the Royal Canadian Legion, over the years these public-spirited organizations have been the backbone of big cities and small towns across the country, raising millions of dollars for worthy causes and providing services for the less fortunate here and abroad. We admire their tradition of commitment to their communities, and want to encourage a new generation of Canadians to take up their banners.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will allow service club members to claim their membership fees under the Charitable Donations Tax Credit to help sustain their public spiritedness from coast to coast to coast.**

Canadians take immense pride in the fact we are a nation of immigrants, and rightly so. That so many people around the world want to live here – that so many aspire to Canadian citizenship – is testament to the hard work generations of Canadians have put into building the greatest country in the world on a foundation of values that resonate all around the globe.

It's no surprise that one reputable study just this year declared Canada the most admired country in the world.

The remarkable truth of it is that one out of every five Canadians was born elsewhere. Not many countries in the world can say that. None of our friends and allies in the G-7 group of major industrialized nations can.

Many of these new Canadians maintain close ties with the lands of their birth, socially, culturally, and economically. These Canadians are our greatest ambassadors in a globalized world, and Canada and their home countries are stronger and better for their efforts.

**✓ A re-elected Conservative Government will recognize these bridge-builders by establishing a new “Maple Leaf” designation to honour extraordinary Canadians who cultivate these links.**

**“I do think it’s helpful, and I think it’s probably recognizing the benefit (of service clubs) to society overall by giving volunteers a break.”**

*David Hetherington, President, Rotary Club of Toronto, (August 23, 2015).*



# Commemorating Canadian heritage and culture

In times of great change, the lessons of the past often light our path into the future.

Our Government considers celebrating Canada's history and keeping alive the memory of the people and events that have made this country what it is today, an important way of restating and recommitting to the principles that animate us as Canadians.

From our large national institutions to the smallest community historical societies, Canada's museums carry out the noble and vital task of preserving our collective past. They're the guardians of our national memory, the vaults where our national stories are kept safe.

Meanwhile, Canadians are still making new discoveries about our history, like last year's discovery of HMS Erebus. Our museums great and small, and the modern-day explorers still

uncovering the secrets of our past, must have our continued support – as must the Canadian communities from coast to coast to coast planning to celebrate our history as we approach the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation.

Our Conservative Government has an ambitious plan to celebrate Canada 150.

- ✓ **We'll invest \$150 million through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program to support up to 1,800 projects across the country that provide community and cultural benefits to Canadians.**
- ✓ **And we'll provide \$210 million through the Canada 150 Fund to support community initiatives that leave a legacy for the future.**

John G. Diefenbaker was a tireless advocate for freedom and human rights, and an early and powerful champion for Canada's North and Northern peoples. First elected to the House of Commons in 1940, in 1957 he became Canada's 13<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister.

As Prime Minister, John Diefenbaker introduced the landmark Canadian Bill of Rights, which enshrines in law fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and religion; freedom of assembly and association; the equality of all people; the right to life, liberty, security of the person, and the enjoyment of property; and the guarantee of fair and just treatment in our legal system – values that continue to define Canada and Canadians to this day.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will honour this important figure in our history, and ensure his contributions to our national life and identity are remembered and understood by future generations, by purchasing John G. Diefenbaker's childhood home and establishing it as a historic site to be operated by Parks Canada.**

The Canada Cultural Investment Fund, operated by the Department of Canadian Heritage, helps not-for-profit, professional arts organizations raise money to create or expand endowment funds by matching, up to a dollar for every dollar, amounts raised by private donors. By giving arts groups the help they need to diversify their revenue streams and the stability to plan for the future, this program supports the long-term sustainability of the arts in our communities.

Our local museums play an equally important role in our communities, especially with the Canada 150 celebrations fast approaching.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will establish a similar endowment incentive program to benefit local museums, to ensure that these vital institutions are supported now and into the future.**

**“The beauty of what this incentive is [that it] helps museums become more engaged with their community to build longstanding bonds, to encourage philanthropy. And I welcome that. In order to get the \$15 million, the museums are going to have to raise \$15 million.”**

*Canadian Museums Association,  
(September 6, 2015).*



# Promoting arts and culture and sport

Arts and culture help define who we are as Canadians. They express Canada's diversity and strengthen our national identity.

They're also important economic drivers in communities across the country. The arts and culture sector employs over 640,000 Canadians and is worth almost \$450 billion yearly to our economy.

Our Conservative Government has been proud to support the creation, presentation, publishing, and marketing of arts and culture. In fact, we were the only G-7 country that didn't cut direct funding to artists during the recovery from the global economic recession.

Instead we established permanent funding for several key arts and culture programs and organizations. This includes:

- ✓ **Making permanent federal funding for the Canada Council for the Arts.**
- ✓ **Establishing ongoing funding for the Canada Cultural Investment Fund and the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund.**
- ✓ **And providing permanent, ongoing support for the Canada Book Fund and the Canada Music Fund.**

These investments are promoting Canadian art and culture and contributing greatly to the Canadian economy.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support Canada's arts and cultural communities and their immeasurable contributions to our country.**

Our national languages are a part of Canada's past, present, and future. Our linguistic duality is one of the things that makes Canada special.

Our Conservative Government recognizes that French- and English-speaking communities contribute to our country's cultural, social, and economic vitality.

That's why, in 2013, we launched the new, five-year, \$1.1 billion Roadmap for Official Languages, the most comprehensive investment in Canada's national languages in our country's history. The Roadmap focuses on three key pillars – education, immigration, and communities – to continue to build the strength and vigour of minority language communities in Canada.

Our commitment to Canada's national languages is unwavering.

✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to implement our historic Roadmap for Official Languages and support minority language communities in Canada.**

The Governor General proclaimed 2015 the "Year of Sport" in Canada. And for good reason. Sport makes us strive for excellence. Sport brings us together as Canadians.

Our Conservative Government has been a proud supporter of youth and amateur sport in Canada.

We established and expanded the Children's Fitness Tax Credit to support parents who choose to put their children in sports. And each year we have provided significant support – over \$190 million to date – to fund sport development and excellence. This represents a funding increase of approximately 40 percent since we took office in 2006.



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## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES



And it's working. Canada set a world record for gold medals at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games and we earned 217 medals at the recent Pan-Am Games in Toronto.

With the Olympics coming up in 2016 and 2018, there's plenty of opportunity to continue to showcase Canada's athletic prowess.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will deliver on its plan to increase funding by \$20 million over four years for Canada's future Olympians and Paralympians.**
- ✓ **We'll also establish an expert panel to study the potential scope of the Adult Fitness Tax Credit, to support Canadians of all ages in making healthy and active choices.**



# Supporting Canada's universal, publicly-funded health care system

Our Conservative Government is committed to a universal public health care system and the *Canada Health Act*, and the right of the provinces to deliver health care within their jurisdictions.

We've increased transfers to the provinces and territories for health care to historically high levels. In fact, no government in Canadian history has provided more funding for health care, and it continues to grow.

Unlike the previous Liberal Government, who cut health care funding after running years of deficits, we have increased health care transfers to the provinces and territories by nearly 70 percent to all-time record levels.

The Canada Health Transfer is projected to grow from \$32.1 billion in 2014–15 to \$40.9 billion in 2019–20. This represents a projected total additional investment of \$27 billion over the next five years.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to support Canada's universal public health care system and increase health care funding to the provinces and territories.**

Palliative care is an important aspect of our health care system that addresses a number of issues of great significance to Canadian families – providing comfort and dignity for a person nearing death, and for his or her loved ones, through pain management and emotional, spiritual, cultural and psychological support.

A 2013 poll found that a large majority of Canadians see palliative care as an important priority for governments. Our Government has supported the establishment of a more robust system of palliative care across the country, supporting health care professionals and policymakers in their efforts to develop a

national approach to palliative care, and funding training in palliative care for front-line health care workers.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will build on this record by funding further research into how palliative care is best provided to Canadians. This research, carried out in conjunction with the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, will focus on veterans, through the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research at Queen's University, and First Nations, through the Improving End-of-Life Care in First Nations Communities project at Lakehead University.**

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that Canadians living with extreme pain and suffering have the right to end their lives with the help of a doctor. This is an extremely sensitive issue and there are many considerations, including the protection of freedom of conscience, that must be part of the discussion.

We established a panel of eminent Canadians in July to consult with medical authorities and with interveners in the Supreme Court case to assist the government in formulating a legislative response to the court's decision. The panel is scheduled to provide its final report by late Fall 2015.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will consider the panel's report as it determines how best to respond to the Supreme Court decision. Any legislation will be subject to a free vote in Parliament.**

We live in a time of rapid technological advances. Dramatic breakthroughs in medical testing and diagnosis mean we have unprecedented access to the information stored in our genetic code. The availability of this deeply personal data, combined with a similar revolution in our ability to store, analyse and use it, rightly gives many Canadians reason for concern regarding its security, and the potential for abuse.

- ✓ A re-elected Conservative Government will reintroduce legislation to amend the *Human Rights Act* to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic testing. The legislation will also amend the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* and the *Privacy Act* to put strict conditions on the collection, use and disclosure of genetic information.

From Alzheimer's to ALS, from Parkinson's to MS, from autism to epilepsy to PTSD, neurological disorders will affect millions of Canadians during their lifetimes, but the inner workings of the brain remain one of science's greatest mysteries.

In 2011, our Government established the Canada Brain Research Fund, earmarking \$100 million to support Brain Canada's own fundraising by matching it dollar-for-dollar. The fund has supported cutting-edge research into new diagnostics, treatments, and cures for neurological diseases.

- ✓ We'll build on our support for Canadian research excellence and Canadian families affected by brain disease by renewing the Canada Brain Research Fund when it expires in 2017, with another \$100 million over seven years.



# Finding a cure for cancer

Cancer is the leading cause of death in Canada, and four out of every ten Canadians will be diagnosed with some form of the disease in their lifetimes. Unfortunately, most Canadians have seen someone they love be forced to confront this terrible disease.

But the number of people who survive a cancer diagnosis is constantly rising, thanks to the hard work and ingenuity of medical professionals and researchers in Canada, and around the world.

Our Conservative Government is committed to helping Canadians in their fight against cancer, investing significantly over the years in research through the Canadian Institute for Health Research which funded \$166 million in cancer research in 2012-13 alone.

The Canadian Partnership against Cancer is an independent organization that oversees

the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control. Its efforts include a diverse range of cancer-related initiatives, including prevention, screening, data gathering, research, guideline- and standard-setting for governments and medical professionals, and support for cancer patients and survivors.

Our Conservative Government established the Partnership in 2006 and renewed our initial support in 2011.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will renew the mandate and funding of the Canadian Partnership against Cancer again in 2017, so it can continue its important work of saving Canadian lives.**

The Canadian Cancer Society has been a major supporter of cancer-related research over its 76-year history. Its hard work and financial

support has significantly accelerated the impact that research has had on our understanding of the causes of cancer and what steps can be taken to reduce its incidence.

The society has developed a plan to establish a unique national centre of excellence in Vancouver to support world-leading cancer research. We'll support it.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will provide capital funding to help establish the Canadian Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention Centre, in conjunction with other levels of government and donors.**
- ✓ **And we'll also match contributions to the Terry Fox Foundation up to \$35 million, with the combined funds going to establish a network of designated comprehensive cancer centres across the country.**

**“Together with Canada’s cancer community, the Canadian Partnership against Cancer is enabling a coordinated approach to reducing the cancer burden on Canadians. We thank the Conservative Party for their commitment to the national cancer control strategy...”**

*Shelly Jamieson, CEO, Canadian Partnership against Cancer, (August 29, 2015).*



# Protecting Canada's West Coast

Canada's West Coast is a marvel of beauty and a source of dynamic economic activity. Our Conservative Government has taken steps to promote and protect our coast, and also to encourage the investment and job creation that makes British Columbia a major economic driver in our country.

There's more we can do to protect our coastal regions and support marine safety.

Derelict boats that have been abandoned by their owners pose a serious challenge to Canada's coastal communities. Currently, such vessels are removed by the Coast Guard or Ministry of Transportation if there is an imminent risk of environmental damage or if they are obstructing navigation.

But otherwise, they sit – or drift – and rot, potentially causing longer-term environmental

damage, endangering other craft on the waters, and creating an eyesore in some of Canada's most beautiful places. According to the Department of Transport Canada, there are currently 245 such vessels in Canadian coastal waters.

It is important that boat owners take responsibility for these vessels. MP John Weston of British Columbia has introduced a Private Member's Bill that makes it a criminal offence to abandon a boat, subject to jail time and fines of up to \$100,000.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will commit to supporting MP Weston's bill, and also set aside funds to cover one third of the cost of removing priority derelict vessels.**

The 2014 case of a Russian cargo ship losing power and potentially running aground on the West Coast was a powerful reminder of the importance of coastal protection.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will increase maritime protection by acquiring greater tugboat capacity on the West Coast.**



# Conservation and rural economic development

Canada is a land of great beauty and great bounty. Our identity, our geography and our prosperity are interwoven in a vibrant Canadian tapestry. Through careful stewardship, our natural heritage has been a source of pleasure and pride for generations of families.

At the same time, it has led to great opportunity and reward for countless hard-working Canadians. Indeed, farmers, landowners, hunters and anglers were Canada's first conservationists, and remain its most passionate. Government schemes and celebrity activists come and go, but the true, patriot love ordinary Canadians hold for our great country is eternal.

For many Canadians – and for many visitors to this country – hunting and fishing are more than longstanding Canadian traditions and pleasant ways to experience the great outdoors. In communities in all regions of the country,

particularly rural areas, they are vital contributors to the local economy.

In fact, the countless hunters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the Canadian wilderness have turned these recreational industries into businesses worth billions of dollars every year. And for the men and women who make their living in these industries, conservation is key to prosperity.

That's why we launched the National Conservation Plan: to support the efforts of Canadians to conserve Canada's lands and waters while promoting increased biodiversity; to restore degraded ecosystems and protect species at risk; and to connect Canadians with our natural heritage, fostering a love for the outdoors in future generations, including urban Canadians, and cultivating a "community of stewards" from coast to coast to coast.

And that's why we established the Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel: to make sure that federal conservation policy is informed by Canadians who know and love our lands and waters best; Canadians whose livelihoods are, in many cases, inextricably linked to the sustainability of our conservation efforts.

Our Conservative Government is committed to continuing our partnerships with the people who love our land, who protect and preserve its natural spaces and the health of our environment, and who create jobs and opportunity.

To this end, if re-elected, we'll:

- ✓ **Create a Wildlife Conservation and Enhancement Program to fund community projects that improve habitat for species harvested by hunters and trappers, such as moose, deer, wild turkey, and migratory birds.**
- ✓ **Commit new funding to helping Destination Canada promote conservation and heritage industries, in particular angling, hunting, and snowmobiling.**
- ✓ **Enact new migratory bird regulations to establish a family hunting permit and remove other unnecessary barriers and irritants to hunters, in time for the 2017 hunting season.**
- ✓ **Ensure the approval of more firearms safety instructors by using powers in the recently-passed Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act.**
- ✓ **And continue to fight any back-door efforts to bring back the failed long-gun registry.**

As part of our Conservative Government's conservation efforts, we've partnered with the Pacific Salmon Foundation to ensure the sustainable future of wild Pacific salmon and their habitat.

**“We are delighted to see the Conservative Party’s commitment to the establishment of a Wildlife Conservation Enhancement Fund.”**

*Angelo Lombardo, Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, (September 4, 2015).*

**“We are pleased this government understands the huge role snowmobile tourism contributes to the winter economy for Canada. These funds will continue to grow the \$8 billion economic impact snowmobiling and world class trails bring to Canada’s winter economy.”**

*Dale Hickox, President, Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, (September 4, 2015).*

## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES

**“We welcome Prime Minister Harper’s commitment if re-elected to invest \$15 million in estuary restoration in the Strait of Georgia, Lower Fraser and Harrison River and its tributaries. These additional funds would help us significantly expand estuary restoration that the Foundation is undertaking in conjunction with our Salish Sea Marine Survival Project, which is focused on research and restoration of Pacific salmon fisheries in the Strait of Georgia.”**

*Pacific Salmon Foundation (August 21, 2015).*

It's been a productive partnership and, if re-elected, we'll work with the Pacific Salmon Foundation to:

- ✓ **Restore estuaries in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island.**
- ✓ **And preserve the lower Harrison River and its tributaries as a salmon “stronghold” by completing salmon spawning and rearing habitat, along with other conservation measures.**

Conservatives do not believe that conservation and recreation have to be contradictory; indeed, we believe Canada is strongest when they are complementary.

And we believe that prudent management applied in the context of a conservation ethic will ensure that Canadians and our environment thrive in concert for generations to come.



# Preserving our natural heritage

Our Conservative Government has made it a priority to increase the amount of Canadian territory, both land and water, set aside for conservation purposes, and for the enjoyment of Canadians for generations to come.

We've expanded the Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories sixfold.

We have added territory almost twice the size of Vancouver Island to the list of federal protected areas, including the world's first protected area extending from mountain peaks to the sea floor – the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site – and the world's largest protected freshwater area, the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area.

We've protected more than 4,500 square kilometres of land and sea in Nunavut, by creating three national Wildlife Areas.

We've created three New Marine Conservation Areas, one in each of Canada's oceans.

And we've created, and expanded, Rouge National Urban Park. Rouge Park is the first of its kind in Canada, and one of the largest urban parks in the world – 13 times the size of New York's Central Park, and 33 times the size of Hyde Park in London.

A re-elected Conservative Government will build on this record of conservation and preservation by moving ahead with plans to expand our network of protected wilderness places.

- ✓ **We'll establish the Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area between the British Columbia mainland and Vancouver Island, in consultation with the Government of British Columbia.**

- ✓ **We'll take final steps to complete the creation of Thaidene Nene National Park on Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories.**
- ✓ **And we'll complete the protection of the globally unique sponge reefs off the coast of British Columbia, by establishing the Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound Glass Sponge Reefs Marine Protected Area.**

Canada is host to 17 exceptional World Heritage sites which represent some of humanity's most outstanding achievements and nature's most beautiful and ecologically important landscapes.

These sites range from Nahanni National Park Reserve in Northwest Territories to the Historic District of Old Québec and present Canada's stories of international significance to the world.

Currently Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites, which is an inventory of candidate sites to be considered for designation by the World Heritage Committee, only has seven potential sites on it and has not been updated in over a decade.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will launch a Call for Proposals so that Canadians and communities across the country can nominate their unique and exceptional places for consideration as future World Heritage sites.**



# Tackling climate change

Canadians are committed to an effective approach to climate change, and so are we. We support an approach that benefits both the environment and the economy. The solution to the climate change challenge must come from innovation, not deprivation – through technology and Canadian ingenuity, not by closing down our vital natural resources industries or imposing job-killing carbon taxes.

And our approach is working. Canada has become a global leader in clean energy, and we are the first government in Canadian history to achieve an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through responsible sector-by-sector regulation.

In 2012, Canada was the first major coal user to ban the construction of traditional coal-fired electricity generation units.

And we've committed to ambitious greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030, in advance of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris later this year.

But we cannot go it alone. Canada is responsible for less than 2 percent of global emissions. The solutions to climate change must be global, enacted in concert with our international partners. That's why we've invested significantly in supporting developing nations as they find ways to reduce their emissions.

✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue to balance what's best for our climate with the needs of our economy, recognizing the importance of both the environment and our economy to all Canadians.**

- ✓ We'll continue with our plan for careful, well-designed regulations and support for companies and researchers to develop new, cleaner technologies. And our low-tax, balanced budget plan to strengthen and grow Canada's economy will create the conditions for this type of cutting-edge innovation.





# Supporting economic and social development for Aboriginal Canadians

As Canada's first peoples, Aboriginal Canadians must share in the successes of our modern-day nation. We have taken steps toward that goal, but it's an ongoing journey.

We believe the path forward lies in creating stronger, more self-reliant communities through improvements in economic development, land management strategies, and education.

The opportunity is there. For example, in our natural resource industries, a labour shortage looms and highly trained and skilled Aboriginal Canadians are an important part of the solution. First Nations people should be able to claim a future as promising as any other Canadian, and we're working to make it happen.

To this end, our Conservative Government has taken significant action to promote the economic and social well-being of Canada's First Nations.

This includes:

- ✓ **Increasing investment in Aboriginal education by 25 percent.**
- ✓ **Constructing 41 new schools and funding over 500 schools.**
- ✓ **Increasing health funding by 31 percent.**
- ✓ **Enacting the *First Nations Financial Transparency Act* to increase accountability and transparency of First Nations governance.**

These practical steps and important investments are improving the lives of Canada's First Nations. But there is more we can do to help our Aboriginal communities thrive and flourish.

Some First Nations have expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of legislation that would allow private property ownership within current reserve boundaries while preserving existing governance and tax policy structures.

The Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band, near Kamloops and Clinton in BC, has asked that the government move ahead with legislation that would allow it to establish a property ownership regime.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will enact legislation that allows this specific band to move forward in this way. If other First Nation bands also choose to pursue this option on a voluntary, opt-in basis, we'll proceed with similar legislation for them.**

As part of Prime Minister Harper's historic apology to the former students of Indian Residential Schools, we established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to educate all Canadians about the Indian Residential Schools system and to offer recommendations on how to improve the well-being of Canada's Aboriginal population.

While we don't yet have the final report, a re-elected Conservative Government will take immediate action to address some of the key themes set out in its preliminary recommendations including:

- ✓ **Mandating the Mental Health Commission of Canada to focus on addiction and suicide prevention with particular attention on Canada's First Nations communities.**
- ✓ **Targeting palliative care research funding to focus on services in First Nations communities.**
- ✓ **Supporting rural broadband expansion with a particular focus on First Nations communities to promote economic development.**
- ✓ **Expanding anti-gang programming to help at-risk youth who are drawn to urban gangs.**

**“Our band doesn't just strongly support the proposal for First Nations property ownership legislation, but we also are of the First Nations that created it. As chief of my community, I can assure you that this legislation is First Nations-led. We want what other Canadians have: title we can leave to our future generations.”**

*Michael LeBourdais, Chief, Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band, (October 9, 2015).*

## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES

**“This new contribution to Indspire through Economic Action Plan 2015 signals the Government of Canada’s continued commitment to advancing education for Indigenous youth, the country’s fastest growing demographic. The primary barrier for Indigenous students in completing their post-secondary education is a lack of financial resources. Through this funding, Indspire will help lift this burden for thousands of Indigenous students across the country, enabling them to graduate. As shown by our recent report on graduation rates, 93% of students funded by Indspire are graduating.”**

*Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO, Indspire (April 21, 2015).*

- ✓ Increasing funding to support the preservation and promotion of traditional Aboriginal languages.

These practical, common-sense policies build on Economic Action Plan 2015’s support for Aboriginal education and skills-training including:

- ✓ New funding for Aboriginal labour market programs such as the Skills and Partnership Fund to provide skills development and training for Aboriginal peoples, in partnership with businesses.
- ✓ Ongoing support for Aboriginal post-secondary bursaries in partnership with Indspire, an Aboriginal-led national charity dedicated to helping First Nations students receive post-secondary education.

Our Conservative Government introduced the *First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act* to improve K-12 educational outcomes for First Nations students. The legislation was rooted in a historic agreement with the Assembly of First Nations and was backed by significant new funding for core education programming, including language and cultural programming.

- ✓ A re-elected Conservative Government remains committed to working with willing First Nations partners and provinces to improve First Nations educational outcomes so that students living on reserve are better placed to reach their full potential.



# Strengthening Canadian citizenship

Our Government has always made it a priority to strengthen and protect the value of Canadian citizenship, making clear that citizenship comes not just with rights, but significant responsibilities.

That's why we committed additional resources to the RCMP and Citizenship and Immigration officials to investigate cases in which individuals obtained Canadian citizenship through fraudulent means, including some who had never even set foot in Canada.

Then, last year, we made the first comprehensive reforms to the *Citizenship Act* in a generation, moving to speed up the process of attaining citizenship for people who have earned it, while modernizing requirements to ensure that new citizens are fully capable of participating in Canadian society.

This legislation also allows the Government to revoke citizenship from dual citizens who are convicted of terrorism, high treason, or spying, or who take up arms against Canada, and to streamline the process of removing citizenship from individuals who obtain it under false pretenses.

Because of this streamlined process, Citizenship and Immigration officials have the capacity to deal with such cases going forward. But, due to the onerous process for revocation under the previous legislation, there remains a backlog of cases needing to be processed.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will provide increased funding to Citizenship and Immigration Canada to clear this backlog over a two-year period.**

In 2014, 3,121 citizenship ceremonies were held across Canada, welcoming more than 262,000 new citizens. This is the largest number of new Canadians welcomed in a single year in the history of Canada, and double the number welcomed in 2013. Canada has one of the highest naturalization rates in the world: more than 85 percent of permanent residents eligible for Canadian citizenship become Canadians.

The Oath of Citizenship is a solemn declaration in which citizenship candidates promise to obey Canadian laws, while fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as Canadian citizens. The Oath recognizes that Canadian citizenship confers both rights and responsibilities.

A majority of Canadians believe that new citizens should be seen and heard at the moment they join the Canadian family. That's why, this past June, our Government introduced a bill requiring all individuals seeking to become Canadians to show their faces while taking the Oath of Citizenship. We believe it's critically important that, at the moment an individual joins the Canadian family, they do so freely and openly, rather than hiding their identity.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will reintroduce and pass the *Oath of Citizenship Act* requiring citizenship candidates to be seen and heard when reciting the Oath in community with others, to confirm their commitment as new citizens to Canada's laws and values.**



# Protecting Canada's democracy

Canadians are proud of our democracy and our democratic institutions. They're the foundation of our system of government and one of the reasons for our country's prosperity and success. Canada has one of the most accountable and transparent governments in the world. From its founding moment, our party has been relentless in its pursuit of increased accountability in government. And, if re-elected, we'll continue our efforts to protect and strengthen Canada's democracy.

An unelected Senate is simply not acceptable in a modern democracy. Stephen Harper has fought long and hard for Senate reform.

We've sought to advance legislation to impose term limits and establish a democratic process for electing senators. Yet the Supreme Court has blocked these reforms by ruling that they must be initiated and supported by the provinces.

We continue to believe that the Senate must be reformed. If it can't be reformed, it should be abolished. Our Conservative Government has made no appointments in the last two and a half years. The result is 22 vacancies and \$6 million in savings for taxpayers so far, relative to 2010.

- ✓ **A re-elected Conservative Government will continue this policy. We'll do nothing further to entrench an unelected, unaccountable Senate. Instead, we'll impose a moratorium on further Senate appointments until real reform is achieved.**

This election is about protecting our fragile economy in a global economy that's weak and in turmoil. But both the Liberals and the NDP are focused on other things, including sweeping changes to how governments are elected. The Liberals have even said they'd make it one of their first priorities if elected.

The Liberals and NDP would make these changes to our democratic system and impose them on Canadians without consultation because when Canadians are asked – as they have been in Ontario, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island – they've chosen the status quo.

We believe our Westminster-style democracy has served our country well for almost 150 years, and that any decision that would lead to a fundamental change must reflect the clearly expressed will of Canadians.

- ✓ **A re-elected Harper Government will introduce legislation enshrining this principle in law, requiring any future government to hold a referendum on major electoral reforms.**

Our Government is firmly committed to Canadian federalism. We're the only party that respects the jurisdiction of provinces and we have provided unprecedented funding to provinces and territories to help them deliver on their responsibilities in health care and education.

Our vision of federalism respects provincial jurisdiction while recognizing Quebec as a nation within a unified Canada. We have taken steps to keep Canada united while preserving Quebec's culture and linguistic values, including granting the province its own seat at UNESCO.

- ✓ **We know that Canadians are not interested in re-opening the Constitution, and neither are we. The Conservative Party understands this more than any other party and will continue to focus on the real concerns of Canadians – creating jobs and protecting and strengthening our economy.**



## AT RISK

Our Conservative Government understands that protecting Canada's economy and creating jobs is the basis for strong, dynamic communities. Our Government has been focused on creating economic opportunities and jobs in communities of all sizes, from major urban centres to rural towns. A strong economy means strong families and strong communities.

The Liberals and NDP would run deficits, hike taxes and leave our economy exposed to instabilities elsewhere in the world. This would cost families money and put jobs at risk. And, in addition, both the Liberals and the NDP have made promises that would hurt communities and set families back. They'll do this by:

- X** **Running deficits that will ultimately necessitate massive tax hikes and spending cuts to key programs Canadians depend upon such as health care and education.**
- X** **Driving up the price of everything Canadian families buy – including gasoline – by imposing carbon pricing schemes on the Canadian economy.**
- X** **Threatening Canada's economic prospects by shutting down responsible resource development.**
- X** **Bringing back the costly, wasteful, and ineffective long-gun registry to penalize law-abiding hunters instead of criminals.**
- X** **Repealing our important reforms that have strengthened Canadian citizenship and reaffirmed Canadian values.**

# Costing our plan

## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Advanced Manufacturing Hub	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Manufacturing Technology Demonstration Program		20.0	20.0	20.0
Automotive Innovation Fund			100.0	100.0
Apprentice Job Creation Tax Credit	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0
Skilled Trades Job Experience Program	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Foreign Credential Recognition Loans	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Agri-Innovation Fund	33.0	33.0	33.0	
Lobster Branding	5.0	5.0	5.0	
Lobster Biomass Research	1.6	1.6	1.6	
Forestry Promotion	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Mineral Exploration Tax Credit	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0
Enhanced Mineral Exploration Tax Credit	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Quebec Maritime Prosperity Initiative	19.0	19.0	19.0	
Rural Broadband		20.0	30.0	50.0
Nutrition North	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Wood Buffalo Highway	0.5	1.0	2.0	6.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214.1</b>	<b>254.6</b>	<b>365.6</b>	<b>331.4</b>

## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR HARD-WORKING FAMILIES AND SENIORS

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
First-Time Home Buyers' Plan		30.0	30.0	30.0
Home Renovation Tax Credit	185.0	740.0	925.0	1480.0
Data on Foreign Speculation in Real Estate	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Single Seniors Tax Credit	23.0	117.0	214.0	315.0
Registered Disability Savings Plan		35.0	40.0	45.0
Registered Education Savings Plan		45.0	47.0	50.0
Adoption Expense Tax Credit	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Maternity/Parental Benefit reform	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214.5</b>	<b>973.5</b>	<b>1262.5</b>	<b>1926.5</b>

**OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR A MORE SECURE CANADA**

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Kanishka Project	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Office of Religious Freedom	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Child, Early, and Forced Marriage	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Financial Task Action Force - Ukraine	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Digital Freedom Fund	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Special Operation Forces	10.0	15.0	20.0	30.0
Canadian Reservists		20.0	40.0	105.0
College Militaire Royal de St Jean		4.0	4.0	4.0
HMCS Discovery		10.0	10.0	25.0
Canadian Patrol Craft - Great Lakes		10.0	20.0	30.0
Canadian Junior Rangers	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>109.0</b>	<b>209.0</b>

**OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR SAFE STREETS**

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
National Anti-Drug Strategy	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Youth Gang Prevention Fund	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Online Counterfeit	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Habitat for Humanity/CORCAN	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Protecting Children and Victims	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
RCMP Integrated Teams and Tipline	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>41.5</b>

# Costing our plan

## OUR CONSERVATIVE PLAN FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Earning Loss Benefit Reform	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Tax Credit for Service Club Memberships		30.0	30.0	30.0
Maple Leaf Designation	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Diefenbaker Home	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Local Museums Program	5.0	5.0	10.0	15.0
Palliative Care Research	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Brain Canada Rearch Fund		15.0	15.0	15.0
Canadian Partnership against Cancer		50.0	50.0	50.0
BC Cancer Prevention Research Centre	4.0	4.0	4.5	
Terry Fox Research Institute	5.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Derelict Boats Fund	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Tug Boat Capacity on the West Coast		8.0	10.0	12.0
Wildlife Conservation and Enhancement Program		5.0	5.0	5.0
Tourism Funding for Angling, Hunting, and Snowmobiling	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Pacific Salmon Conservation		5.0	5.0	5.0
Strait of Georgia Marine Conservation Area	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Aboriginal Language Programming	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Citizenship "Surge" Funding	5.7	5.7		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>160.8</b>	<b>162.6</b>	<b>165.1</b>
<b>TOTAL NEW PLATFORM SPENDING</b>	<b>538.1</b>	<b>1504.4</b>	<b>1941.2</b>	<b>2673.5</b>

## TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Quota Value Guarantee Program		150.0	150.0	150.0
Income Guarantee Program		36.0	50.0	69.0
Processor Modernization and Marketing Fund	49.0	70.0	103.0	103.0
Agri-Marketing Program	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>259.0</b>	<b>306.0</b>	<b>325.0</b>
<b>TOTAL NEW SPENDING</b>	<b>590.1</b>	<b>1763.4</b>	<b>2247.2</b>	<b>2998.5</b>
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Final Budget Baseline	1700.0	2600.0	2600.0	4800.0
Contingency	1000.0	1000.0	2000.0	3000.0
2015 Budget Pre-Contingency	2700.0	3600.0	4600.0	7800.0
New Platform Spending	590.1	1763.4	2247.2	2998.5
One-Year Operating Freeze	565.0	580.0	595.0	610.0
Planning Surplus	2674.9	2416.6	2947.8	5411.5
Contingency	1000.0	1000.0	2000.0	3000.0
<b>BUDGET BALANCE</b>	<b>1674.9</b>	<b>1416.6</b>	<b>947.8</b>	<b>2411.5</b>