

1. Increasing the allowable contribution level to CPP by employees to help encourage further retirement savings?

The purpose of the CPP is to provide contributors and their families with modest basic earnings replacement upon the retirement, disability or death of a wage earner.

Approximately \$37.3 billion in benefits was paid to almost 5.2 million Canadians (2013–2014). These benefits are comprised of retirement pensions, disability, death, survivor and children's benefits. Quebec operates its own comprehensive public pension plan, the Quebec Pension Plan.

The 26th Actuarial Report on the CPP was tabled in Parliament in December 2013, confirming that the CPP remains financially sustainable at the current 9.9 per cent legislated contribution rate for the next 75 years.

The OAS program is a non-contributory, residence-based program, financed through general tax revenues.

The objective of the OAS program is to provide a minimum level of income to seniors aged 65 and over in recognition of the contribution that they have made to Canadian society and the economy.

In 2013–2014, the OAS program provided \$42.6 billion in benefits to 5.4 million beneficiaries.

In Budget 2012, the Government announced several initiatives for the OAS program: a proactive enrolment regime that will eliminate the need for many seniors to apply for OAS benefits as it is phased in, beginning in 2013; the voluntary deferral of the OAS pension for up to five years in exchange for a higher, actuarially-adjusted pension of up to 36 per cent by age 70, effective July 1, 2013; and a gradual increase to the age of eligibility for the OAS pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from age 65 to 67, starting in April 2023, with full implementation by January 2029.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper reiterated our Conservative Party's opposition to the Trudeau-Wynne tax hike on the middle class. Justin Trudeau has promised to implement this tax hike on the middle class across Canada. Expansion of CPP would be enormous tax increases for workers and small businesses alike. It would be bad for job as and bad for our economy.

I believe that to grow the economy we need to keep taxes low. That's why we are working to cut red tape for small businesses. Cutting unnecessary red tape allows business owners to focus on growing their bottom line and will create new jobs through reinvestment of their money back into their business.

2. The need for detailed labour market information that is important for businesses, educational institutions and communities to plan for the future.

In addition to supporting the development of skills training, our Government also recognizes the value of businesses and job creators in the long-term health of the Canadian economy. It's not by chance, that Canada is consistently ranked one of the best countries in the world to do business. Our Government has taken significant steps to provide incentives and tax relief for job creators that contribute to Canada's job and economic growth.

The Conservative Government knows that the vast majority of jobs are created by small business and entrepreneurs.

Canada's small business owners and entrepreneurs are creating jobs and building wealth across the country. Small businesses make up 90% of all companies in Canada, employing nearly 70% of the private sector labour force and contributing nearly 40% to the GDP.

As a leading job creator in Canada, small businesses are essential to Canada's overall prosperity. Our Government is committed to doing everything it can to support small businesses and entrepreneurs do what they do best, recognizing market needs and creating goods and services to meet those needs.

3. The conservative government's commitment of \$150M towards the reestablishment of a passenger rail service still remains. We are very willing to work with the province and the Shinning Waters Railway to continue this project along. As the elected MP, this will be one of my primary priorities once the election is over.

4. The Energy East pipeline project which, if approved by the National Energy Board, will bring 250 new jobs to Peterborough's GE large motor plant and 4,200 to the province of Ontario.

An elected conservative government supports this pipeline. Today over 600,000 barrels of oil are delivered to the Province of Ontario via Rail or Truck, a pipeline will increase the safety and efficiency of this oil being delivered to Ontario.

5. What is your personal statement to the business community?

I strongly believe in supporting Job Creators and our local businesses.

In addition to supporting the development of skills training, our Government also recognizes the value of businesses and job creators in the long-term health of the Canadian economy. It's not by chance, that Canada is consistently ranked one of the best countries in the world to do business. Our Government has taken significant steps to provide incentives and tax relief for job creators that contribute to Canada's job and economic growth.

The Conservative Government knows that the vast majority of jobs are created by small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Canada's small business owners and entrepreneurs are creating jobs and building wealth across the country. Small businesses make up 98% of all companies in Canada, employing nearly 70% of the private sector labour force and contributing nearly 40% to the GDP.

As a leading job creator in Canada, small businesses are essential to Canada's overall prosperity.

Our Government is committed to doing everything it can to support small businesses and entrepreneurs do what they do best, recognizing market needs and creating goods and services to meet those needs.

I am proud that the conservative government has accomplished the following:

- Since 2006, our Government has reduced the corporate income tax rate for job creators from 21% to 15%, the lowest overall tax rate on new business investment in the G7.
- We reduced the small business tax rate from 12% to 11%, and we will reduce it to 9% by January 2019, the largest tax rate cut for small businesses in more than 25 years.
- We created the Venture Capital Action Plan to help increase private sector investment in innovative businesses; the plan has made up to \$350 million available to establish up to four large-scale private sector-led funds.
- We created a new late-stage venture capital fund to support entrepreneurs.
- We made an aggregate investment of up to \$50 million in established high-performing venture capital funds in Canada.
- We created and extended the temporary Hiring Credit for Small Business to help small businesses by defraying the costs of hiring new workers.
- Our Small Business Job Credit is reducing the federal EI premiums paid by small businesses in 2015 and 2016 by 15%, saving small businesses more than \$550 million over two years.
- We are providing entrepreneurs seeking to export to emerging markets for the first time with direct financial support.
- We are supporting incubator and accelerator organizations expand their support to entrepreneurs with \$100 million through the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program.

I believe jobs and our economy must be our number one priority. I also believe in the conservative government's proven track record of stability over risky change.

On October 19th I.....Michael Skinner.....ask for your support.