

David Tilson MP ? Federal government concentrating on seizing Canada's moment



Canadians gave our government a mandate two years ago; a mandate to support job creation, keep taxes low and help make our streets and communities safer.

With the support of our Economic Action Plan, Canada has created approximately one million net new jobs since the depths of the global economic recession, the best job-creation record in the G7. Yet, the job isn't done. Our natural wealth, sound finances and the ingenuity of Canadians are aligned to create Canada's moment. We must seize that moment and build on what Canada has accomplished.

This is why the Speech from the Throne, delivered by Governor General David Johnston, lays out our government's priorities for this session of Parliament. Our government will build on our record, supporting economic growth and jobs for Canadians. We will take new steps to support and protect Canadian families. We will always put Canada first.

To help promote jobs and opportunity, we will continue to implement our Economic Action Plan. We will spend responsibly and balance the budget in 2015. We will introduce legislation requiring balanced budgets during normal economic times.

We'll continue to reform the Temporary Foreign Worker program to ensure that Canadians always have the first chance at available jobs. We will conclude negotiations on a comprehensive trade agreement with the European Union with the potential to create 80,000 new Canadian jobs. We'll also continue to expand trade, opening new markets in Asia and the Americas.

We will continue to support and protect Canadian families. We will do this by putting consumers first and work to increase choice. We believe Canadian families should be able to choose the combination of television channels they wish to view. This is why we will require unbundling, so Canadian families can choose which channels they want to pay for, while also protecting Canadian jobs. We'll take action to reduce roaming costs on networks within Canada, while also enhancing high-speed broadband networks for rural Canadians. We will also end 'pay to pay' policies, so customers won't pay extra to receive paper bills; expand no-cost basic banking services; work with the provinces and territories to crack down on predatory payday lenders; empower consumers by requiring disclosure of the cost of different payment methods; and take further action to end geographic price discrimination against Canadians.

We will work to better protect Canadians families, putting victims first and introducing a comprehensive Victims Bill of Rights, to restore victims to their rightful place at the heart of our justice system. We will also introduce legislation to combat cyberbullying, to help protect our children from a threat that can reach into their homes. Furthermore, we will change the law, to ensure that a life sentence means a sentence for life for the most dangerous offenders.

In addition, our government is committed to putting Canada first. We will protect both Canadians and Canadian sovereignty. This includes ensuring our military has the tools it needs. We will look to our country's 150th anniversary, a chance to celebrate our heritage and our values of democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law. We will also reach out to homeless veterans and help provide them the support they need and build on our successful Helmets to Hardhats program, to place veterans in good jobs. In this session of Parliament, Canadians can count on our government to build on our record and continue to deliver on our commitments. We will remain on course for long-term economic prosperity. We will put consumers first, expanding choice and reducing costs. We will always put Canada first, celebrating and defending our country.