

CANADIAN PENSIONERS CONCERNED, ONTARIO DIVISION
ISSUES NOT DEALT WITH OR INAPPROPRIATELY DEALT WITH IN THE
FEDERAL BUDGET

This is a budget which offers no clear plan to help low income and unemployed Canadians. It is a makeshift mix of poorly thought out expenditures, lacking coherence and with the long term effect of reducing the financial capacity of the Federal Government to act in support of all citizens and in particular, those in the greatest need. The previously announced Build Canada Infrastructure Fund takes months if not years to get the money out and working in the economy.

1. The need for a national, universal, regulated day care program, open to all parents who need and want it. It is a crucial need for low and moderate-income families and especially single parent families headed by women.
2. What is tragically missing is the education support, housing and infrastructure development in all Aboriginal communities as per the Kelowna Accord. The urban aboriginal people and their needs are not even mentioned in the infrastructure expenditure plan for Aboriginal Peoples.
3. The Budget fails to deliver equalization of access and payments to EI for all workers across the country. Adding a few weeks to the payments does nothing for those workers who cannot receive benefits, or who receive lower benefits from the fund because of where they live.
4. \$4.3 billion in tax cuts do not make sense. The cut to the GST and the continuing cuts to income and corporate taxes are creating the strong potential for a structural deficit that, in turn, will ultimately lead to cuts in government spending. It will increase the difficulty of eliminating the deficit once the economy begins to strengthen.
5. The Federal Government's investment in infrastructure is not "up front" money; it is conditional on the Provincial and Municipal governments putting their money in first. This is just a bureaucratic way to avoid putting money up at all!
6. We must have a National Affordable Housing Strategy and Policy not one dependant on shared costs with the Provinces and Municipalities.

7. The need for increased investment in medical, science and technology research centres is not there. Such investment will create the environment for a dynamic and productive society in the future.

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8. It is essential to have greater support for education and training for people in the work place. The nature of work is changing and we need a skilled and well-educated labour force to build an economy and society that will be strong in the 21st century.
9. The Budget does not come close to meeting the goal set by the IMF. It is a shameless effort to piggyback on the efforts taken by the government of the United States under President Obama.
10. Subsidizing home renovations does nothing for the people who cannot afford homes let alone afford to pay for expensive renovations. This provision is targeted to please those who already have the resources and does nothing for those in need of safe and secure housing.
11. The environment is a critical issue for all Canadians so that the home Renovation Program should have be targeted to energy saving and environmentally beneficial renovations.
12. The failure to target significant increases in the Canada Child Tax Benefit for low-income families is a missed opportunity to help those in greatest need.
13. The Arts are major contributors to the economy and the health and well-being of all Canadians. There should be significant increases to Arts funding by the Federal government and, in particular, to the funding of individual artists and Arts organizations who are already struggling in the current recessionary economic climate.

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