

1. Do you and your party support creating a national power grid that would allow for interprovincial/territorial trade and transmission of power?
2. When will you deliver a national policy on electricity energy infrastructure?

Stephen Harper's Government has worked effectively with the provinces and municipalities to deliver historic investments in infrastructure, including green energy, and clean energy research and development.

We will continue supporting clean energy initiatives, to protect our environment and improve the quality of the air we breathe.

We will support economically viable clean energy projects that will assist regions and provinces in the replacement of fossil fuel with renewable fuel sources. The criteria for our support of a project will be whether it:

- has national or regional significance;
- has economic and financial merit; and
- will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For example, **we will support the Lower Churchill hydro-electric project, through a loan guarantee or equivalent financial support.** The project would strengthen the island of Newfoundland's connection to the continental grid – and it would be a major regional environmental initiative. It is estimated the project would reduce carbon emissions by 4.5 million tonnes annually – the equivalent of removing 3.2 million cars from the road every year.

If given the opportunity to form a coalition government, the Liberal Party and NDP would effectively put the fate of the Lower Churchill project in the hands of the Bloc Quebecois, which does not support it.

In addition to the criteria noted above, **our support for any clean energy project will be based on the principles of respect and equitable treatment for all regions of the country.**

We will also continue to promote the deployment of clean energy technologies in Aboriginal and Northern communities.

Questions

- How, specifically, will NAFO be reformed to be more effective under your government?
- What multilateral action will Canada take to more effectively protect the offshore fishery, and what unilateral action would it consider in the absence of international cooperation?

Overfishing on the Grand Banks and the management of straddling stocks that do not respect national boundaries has long been a problem for the Government of Canada and for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

When our Conservative government was elected in 2006, the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) was an organization that was broken. As former Fisheries Minister Loyola Hearn used to say "it had no teeth".

The fact Minister Hearn had been such a vocal and public critic of NAFO allowed our government to enter NAFO meetings for the first time with a very strong negotiating position. Other nations were concerned that if Canada did not start to see real and tangible reforms within the organization we would consider all of our other management options for the Grand Banks. This meant NAFO was going to effectively reform or Canada would walk away.

This approach paid off, with major reforms to the NAFO Convention as well as effective enforcement levels and practices.

In 2007, our Canadian delegation at NAFO had a clear mandate from our government to push for change. As a result NAFO adopted long needed amendments to its 1978 Convention.

These reforms and further modernization is needed, and NAFO continues to be a more effective regional fisheries management organization. Real and significant progress has been made.

Under the old Convention, any country could object to a NAFO decision and set a unilateral quota on its own and fish it without consequence.

Under a reformed NAFO Convention, there are new objection procedures that require the objecting country to put in place alternative measures. There is also a dispute resolution mechanism to address such issues. These mechanisms, for the first time in NAFO's history, require all contracting parties to be held legally accountable for their actions.

Second, the amended NAFO Convention emphasizes reaching consensus on decisions whenever possible. Only when consensus cannot be reached would a two-thirds majority voting system be used.

This new voting system will help protect Canada's fishing quotas in NAFO. Any NAFO member that wishes to change the way NAFO allocates fish must obtain support of eight of the 12 NAFO members, instead of the seven needed before.

Further, the Canadian industry and provincial governments, including Newfoundland and Labrador, were consulted extensively on the amended Convention and have been supportive. These industrial and provincial partners are part of the Canadian delegation to NAFO. They agreed that it protects Canada's interests and uses more up-to-date decision-making and management practices.

The other important reforms have been in the areas of enforcement. Inspection and reporting regimes have been updated and infractions have decreased.

In fact, since the Conservatives formed government in 2006, there were fewer violations in the NAFO regulatory area in the first four years combined than in 2005 – prior to our taking office. This is largely due to greater enforcement and improvements to the monitoring, control and surveillance measures adopted by NAFO in 2006.

Further, in 2011 NAFO is undergoing a long overdue Performance Review. This process involving leading experts from industry, science and law was pushed for by our government and will bring to light further areas where NAFO can be made more effective.

The Conservative government's approach to cleaning up NAFO since 2006 has focused on bringing about needed reforms within organization. With the completion of the Performance Review in September 2011, Canada will be afforded another opportunity to give NAFO the teeth it needs to be an effective RFMO. After 13 years of Liberal failure on this file, it is the Conservative Government that is finally bringing about change to the organization. Newfoundlanders and Labradorians can trust that this government will continue the rebuilding process at NAFO and ensure positive results on the water.

Questions

- How will your government remove and/or lessen growing structural costs within government?
- What criteria will your government use to determine which costs get removed and which costs are simply lessened?
- What specific percentage of your plan to return to balanced budgets is based on economic growth? What specific percentage is based on government cost controls? What percentage is based on elimination of programs, services and employment?

Stephen Harper's Government will **eliminate the deficit** and return to balanced budgets.

We will achieve this without raising taxes. We will **keep taxes low**.

Eliminating the deficit and keeping taxes low are necessary to ensure that:

- our economy can continue to grow and create jobs; and
- the government can continue investing in the priorities of Canadians.

OUR RECORD

Canada's response to the global recession has been held up as a model and inspiration around the world.

In November 2009 the world was confronted with a global economic crisis, unforeseen and unlike anything since the 1930's – the threat of a synchronized collapse in financial systems and in consumer and business confidence.

To meet this extraordinary challenge, **it was essential for advanced countries around the world to run temporary deficits** in order to sustain global business confidence, protect jobs, and stimulate our economies. In 2009, the leaders of the G-20, the world's most advanced and emerging economies, agreed on the need for such action and set a common target for stimulus investments.

Stephen Harper's Government has met that target for Canada – and **as shown by Canada's record on job creation since the global recession hit, our investments have been effective.**

But we have said all along – and Canadians agree – that **we will not allow the deficit to become permanent.**

In 2010, under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the leaders of the G-20 agreed on the need to reduce deficits and debts, and established clear targets to achieve these goals. Canada will meet and exceed those targets, because we made the right choices – not just during the global recession, but before it hit.

Before the global recession hit, Stephen Harper's Government:

- maintained a balanced budget;
- paid down \$37 billion of the federal debt;
- established an ongoing review of government spending, to cut low-priority or ineffective programs;
- reduced taxes on families and businesses;
- invested in the priorities of Canadians; and
- increased provincial transfer payments to record levels, to support health care and education.

Because of these balanced, responsible choices, in contrast to many other countries, **Canada has been able to fight the global recession from a position of strength:**

- Canada has now finished the vast majority of our stimulus program, and by the end of 2011 it will have been fully completed;
- we ensured our stimulus investments would protect and create jobs immediately, without establishing permanent new government programs;
- we are on track to eliminating our deficit well ahead of the rest of the G-7; and
- we are in preserving and enhancing Canada's strong fiscal position – we are emerging from the global recession with the lowest debt-to-GDP ratio of any major advanced economy, by far.

OUR PLAN

Unlike the Ignatieff-led Coalition with the NDP and Bloc Québécois, **Stephen Harper's Government will not raise taxes** on Canadian families or on the businesses that create jobs for Canadians.

Unlike the previous Liberal government, **we will not cut transfer payments** to individuals or to the provinces for essential things like health care, education, and pensions.

As laid out in the Budget we presented last month, the deficit is already 25 percent lower this year than last year, and it is projected to shrink by more than 25 percent again in 2011-12.

Through accelerated reductions in government spending, **a re-elected Stephen Harper Government will eliminate the deficit by 2014-15** by:

- completing our stimulus package, as promised;
- continuing specific measures to restrain the growth of program spending;
- completing, within one year, a comprehensive review of government spending.
-

This **comprehensive Strategic and Operating Review** is designed to realize a substantial additional savings through greater efficiency and effectiveness. It will place the government in a strong position over the long term to:

- resume paying down the federal debt;
- keep reducing the tax burden on Canadian families; and
- continue investing in priorities.

We will eliminate the deficit, and we will do so in a careful, responsible manner. **Our plan is based on the fiscal projections in the Budget our Government presented last month. These projections were based on independent, expert advice** from Canada's leading private-sector economists, and a cautious estimate of economic growth over the next few years.

ELIMINATING THE DEFICIT			
	<i>BUDGET 2011 DEFICIT/SURPLUS PROJECTION (\$ BILLIONS)</i>	<i>STRATEGIC AND OPERATING REVIEW SAVINGS</i>	<i>REVISED DEFICIT/SURPLUS PROJECTION (\$ BILLIONS)</i>
2011-12	-29.6		-29.6
2012-13	- 19.4	1.0	-18.4
2013-14	-9.5	2.0	-7.5
2014-15	-0.3	4.0	3.7
2015-16	4.2	4.0	8.2