



**HERE FOR  
CANADA**

 **Conservative**



**HERE FOR  
JOBS AND GROWTH**

# HERE FOR JOBS AND GROWTH

## OUR GOAL

Since we were first elected in 2006, Stephen Harper's Government has been implementing a low-tax plan for **jobs and growth**.

Our goals are to protect and create jobs, improve the **financial security** of Canadians, and ensure a future of **hope and opportunity** for our children and grandchildren.

## OUR RECORD

Stephen Harper's Government has **reduced the tax burden on the businesses that create jobs for Canadians**. Among many other things, we:

- reduced the federal income tax rate for businesses of all sizes;
- increased the amount of income small businesses can claim under the small business income tax rate; and
- eliminated the federal capital tax and the corporate surtax, to encourage businesses to invest, expand, and hire more workers.

As a result, among major advanced economies Canada now has the lowest overall tax rate on new business investment (previously we had one of the highest); and by 2012, we will have the lowest statutory corporate income tax rate.

Together these changes are **providing a significant advantage for Canada in the global economy, supporting jobs and opportunity right here at home, now and for the long term**. We are helping Canadian businesses to invest and innovate, to grow and create new jobs.

In response to the global recession, we have taken **strong action to protect and create jobs**, and to **help those who have lost their jobs to find good new positions**. We:

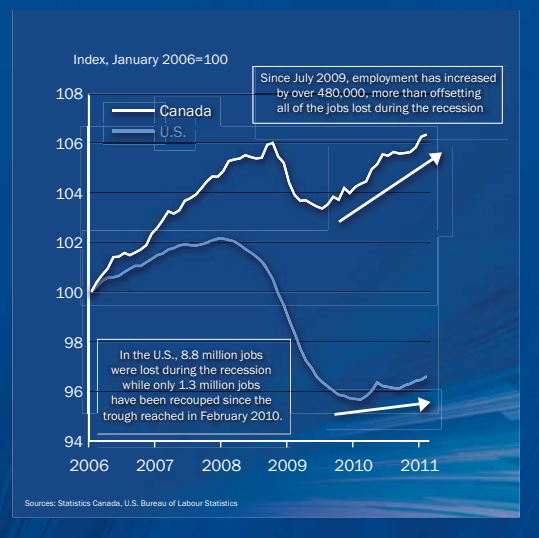
- helped keep Canadians working, by enhancing the Work-Sharing program – over the last two years, almost 280,000 Canadian jobs were protected as a result;
- made major investments in skills upgrading and new opportunities for older workers, apprentices, and youth;
- helped create new jobs through the largest federal investment in infrastructure in more than 60 years, and put Canadians to work on more than 28,500 projects from coast to coast to coast; and
- encouraged businesses to keep hiring, by freezing Employment Insurance premiums for two years.

**Since July 2009, the Canadian economy has created more than 480,000 new jobs** – more than were lost during the recession. Approximately 75 percent of these are full-time jobs. <sup>1</sup>

The unemployment rate in Canada is now a full percentage point lower than in the U.S., the largest gap in Canada's favour in nearly three decades. <sup>2</sup>

But we remain concerned about the number of Canadians looking for work. We need to keep protecting and creating jobs now, and

## 1 JOBS CREATED SINCE JULY 2009



## 2 Job creation and unemployment rate figures current as of April 1, 2011.

laying the foundation for long-term prosperity and economic growth.

## OUR PLAN

Stephen Harper's Government has a **low-tax plan for jobs and growth** – a plan that is working.

A re-elected Stephen Harper Government **will not raise taxes on Canadian consumers and families, and we will not raise the tax rate on the businesses that create jobs for Canadians.**<sup>3</sup>

We will **stay the course** with our low-tax plan for jobs and growth. We will **keep helping create jobs**, through:

- **training** – providing skills training for Canadians who are out of work;
- **trade** – expanding opportunities for Canadian businesses in the world's fastest-growing markets; and
- **low taxes** – keeping taxes low, to allow businesses to invest, expand, and hire more workers.

Here is what a re-elected Stephen Harper Government will do to achieve these goals.

### HIRING CREDIT FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Canada's unemployment rate is now a full percentage point lower than in the U.S., the largest gap in Canada's favour in nearly three decades.<sup>4</sup>

But we remain concerned about the number of Canadians looking for work. The global recovery remains fragile, and many businesses are reluctant to invest and to hire.

Small businesses are the engine of job creation in Canada. To encourage them to hire new employees, we will provide a Hiring Credit for Small Business – **a one-year EI break for some 525,000 Canadian small businesses.**<sup>5</sup>

### KEEPING TAXES LOW TO CREATE JOBS

Stephen Harper's Government has taken strong action to encourage long-term job creation and economic growth. As a result of our tax-relief measures to date:

- Canada now has the lowest overall tax rate on new business investment among major advanced economies;
- we are well on our way to making Canada the best place in the world in which to do business – and that means more good new jobs for Canadians; and
- by 2012 Canada's statutory corporate income tax rate will be the lowest in the G-7 – a significant advantage for Canada in the global economy, supporting jobs and opportunity right here at home for our children and grandchildren.<sup>6</sup>

To preserve this advantage for Canada, **a re-elected Stephen Harper Government will not raise the tax rate on the businesses that create jobs for Canadians.**

### 3 THE IGNATIEFF-LED COALITION'S HIGH-TAX AGENDA

In stark contrast to Stephen Harper's low-tax plan for jobs and growth, the Ignatieff-led Coalition with the NDP and Bloc Québécois has a high-tax agenda that would stall our recovery, kill jobs, and set hard-working families back.

#### MICHAEL IGNATIEFF HAS:

- refused to rule out raising the GST,
- supported a tax on iPods;
- will raise EI premiums by 35 percent – more than \$ 4 billion per year – to pay for the Coalition's "45-day work year"; and
- has vowed to impose a \$6-billion tax hike on the businesses that create jobs for Canadians.

Experts estimate Michael Ignatieff's \$6-billion tax hike alone would kill 200,000 Canadian jobs. His \$4-billion EI premium increase will kill thousands more, and prevent small businesses, the engine of our economy, from creating new jobs.

But the Ignatieff-led Coalition would impose these burdens regardless, to implement reckless policies that failed Canada decades ago, raising taxes to pay for government spending we can't afford.

<sup>4</sup> Current as of April 1, 2011.

### 5 THE IGNATIEFF-LED COALITION

with the NDP and Bloc Québécois **opposed this measure to help create jobs for Canadians**, when they opposed Stephen Harper's Budget last month, and chose instead to force an unnecessary and opportunistic election.

### 6 KEEPING TAXES LOW TO CREATE JOBS

As a result of our tax-relief measures to date, by 2012 Canada's statutory corporate income tax rate will be the lowest in the G-7 – a significant advantage for Canada in the global economy, supporting jobs and opportunity right here at home for our children and grandchildren.

Stephen Harper's government has built this advantage for Canada in collaboration with the provinces – including Liberal, NDP, and Conservative provincial governments. This achievement is based on a strong consensus: that reducing taxes on the businesses that create jobs for Canadians is necessary for our long-term prosperity and economic growth.

## PROTECTING JOBS AND HELPING OLDER WORKERS

When the global recession hit, Stephen Harper's Government took strong action to:

- protect and create jobs; and
- provide new skills-training opportunities to help Canadians who lost their jobs to find good new employment.

But workers in some communities and industries remain concerned about the risk of layoffs. And we remain concerned about the number of Canadians who are out of work – especially older workers in transition who may need special help to upgrade their skills and re-enter the workforce.

To address these concerns, we will:

- continue helping businesses to retain employees and to keep Canadians working, by **enhancing the Work-Sharing program** once again, and <sup>7</sup>
- continue helping workers in transition, by **extending the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers** – the program has proved successful in helping participants find new jobs, and most important, in helping older workers regain the dignity of employment and continue providing for themselves and their families.

Also, to respect the right of older workers to decide the course of their careers, we will **prohibit federally-regulated employers from setting a mandatory retirement age.** <sup>8</sup>

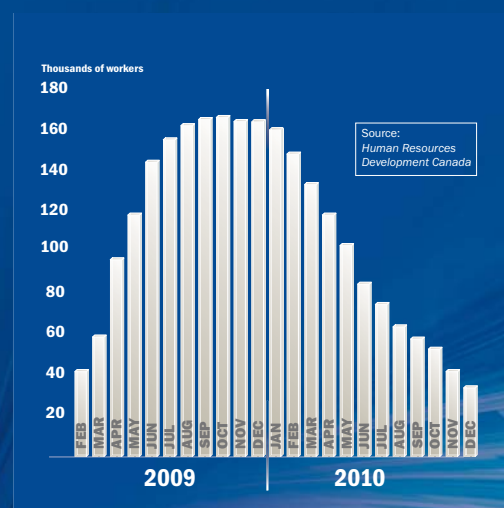
## SKILLS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

While the previous Liberal government slashed transfer payments for higher education, Stephen Harper's Government has increased transfer payments substantially.

We have also taken action to provide greater support for Canadian students. Among other things, we:

- established the Canada Student Grants Program for low- and middle-income students, part-time students, students with dependents, and students with permanent disabilities;
- made scholarships and bursaries tax-free, introduced a tax credit for textbooks, and increased investments in the Canada Graduate Scholarships Program;
- introduced greater flexibility in the repayment of student loans;
- established the Tradesperson's Tool Deduction and the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit;
- provided a number of enhancements to Registered Education Savings Plans; and
- increased support for the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

## 7 PROTECTING JOBS DURING THE GLOBAL RECESSION: NUMBER OF JOBS PROTECTED EACH MONTH THROUGH WORK-SHARING



8 **THE IGNATIEFF-LED COALITION** with the NDP and Bloc Québécois **opposed these measures to protect jobs and help older workers**, when they opposed Stephen Harper's Budget last month, and chose instead to force an unnecessary and opportunistic election.

Canadian students are the future leaders of our country. Stephen Harper's Government will take further action to support them in their education. We will:

- **extend support for the Canada Youth Business Foundation**, which provides loans and mentoring to young entrepreneurs;
- **enhance the Canada Student Loans Program for part-time students**, to respond to increased demand for assistance in career transition through post-secondary education;
- **double the work exemption for Canada Student Loans**, to allow students to benefit more from part-time employment;
- **establish 30 Industrial Research Chairs at colleges and polytechnics**, to provide new opportunities for college students to interact with cutting-edge researchers; and
- **support research partnerships between college and university researchers and students**, through Canada's research granting councils. <sup>9</sup>

As Quebec does not participate in the Canada Student Loan Program, a re-elected Stephen Harper Government will work closely with the Government of Quebec to implement these measures in a manner that respects its jurisdiction.

#### **FOREIGN CREDENTIALS LOANS FOR NEW CANADIANS**

Canada is fortunate to attract hard-working immigrants from around the world, eager to earn a better life for their families and to contribute to Canadian society.

But obstacles in the recognition of foreign credentials can make it hard for them to find a suitable job. And for those who need to upgrade their skills for use in Canada, it's difficult to qualify for existing programs or private loans.

Stephen Harper's Government has invested new funds to implement a common approach to foreign credentials recognition across Canada, and established the Foreign Credentials Referral Office.

But more is needed. To build on our actions so far, we will **provide loans for recent immigrants to help pay for skills training and accreditation**. <sup>10</sup>

This new measure will make it easier for new Canadians to find jobs that take full advantage of their experience and expertise, and help them to contribute fully to the growth of the Canadian economy. <sup>11</sup>

#### **CANADA-EUROPE FREE TRADE**

Canada is one of the world's great trading nations. One in three Canadian jobs is directly or indirectly dependent on exports.

The North American Free Trade Agreement has benefitted Canada enormously, but the continuing economic challenges in the U.S. show the need to keep expanding our access to foreign markets.

To create more jobs and opportunities for Canadians, Stephen Harper's Government has:

<sup>9</sup> **THE IGNATIEFF-LED COALITION** with the NDP and Bloc Québécois **opposed these measures to help Canadian students**, when they opposed Stephen Harper's Budget last month, and chose instead to force an unnecessary and opportunistic election.

<sup>10</sup> **THE IGNATIEFF-LED COALITION** with the NDP and Bloc Québécois **opposed this measure to help new Canadians find good jobs**, when they opposed Stephen Harper's Budget last month, and chose instead to force an unnecessary and opportunistic election.

#### <sup>11</sup> **WELCOMING NEW CANADIANS**

Stephen Harper's Government has welcomed the highest levels of immigration to Canada in more than 50 years, to help keep our economy strong. We are:

- attracting more skilled economic immigrants better matched to our labour-market needs; and
- welcoming more government- and privately-sponsored refugees.

To help new Canadians, among other things we have:

- cut the Right of Landing Fee for new immigrants in half, saving a family of four more than \$2,000;
- passed a law to crack down on crooked immigration consultants who exploit prospective immigrants and undermine the integrity of our immigration system;
- increased support for new immigrants to get settled in Canada;
- invested new funds and collaborated with the provinces and territories to implement a common approach to foreign credentials recognition across Canada; and
- established the Foreign Credentials Referral Office, to provide integrated and authoritative information on foreign credentials for newcomers.

- signed new trade agreements with eight countries – Panama, Jordan, Colombia, Peru, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – and we are in negotiations with many more; and
- made major steps forward in trade relations with China. <sup>12</sup>

We aim to build on this with an historic new trade agreement between Canada and the European Union, the world's largest single market. We will aim to **complete negotiations on a Canada-EU Free Trade Agreement by 2012.**

### CANADA-INDIA FREE TRADE

Canada is well positioned to benefit from increased trade with India – one of the world's fastest growing and largest economies, with one billion customers – building on the personal ties and business expertise of our large Indo-Canadian community.

Since taking office in 2006, Stephen Harper's Government has made it a priority to revitalize Canada's relationship with the great nation of India. For example, to help Canadian businesses gain greater access to this crucial, growing market, we have:

- opened three new trade offices in India;
- signed a Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement; and
- in 2010 Prime Minister Stephen Harper and India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh launched negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership between Canada and India.

We will aim to **complete negotiations on a Canada-India Free Trade Agreement in 2013.**

These two Free Trade Agreements between Canada and the EU and Canada and India will give Canadian businesses greater access to markets totalling more than 1.7 billion people with a combined GDP of \$20 trillion, creating thousands of jobs for Canadians.

### CANADA-U.S. PERIMETER SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

To protect and create jobs for Canadians, we must protect and strengthen our trade relationship with the United States.

Each country is the other's largest export market, and our two economies are highly integrated. One in five Canadian jobs is linked to trade with the U.S.; and the U.S. depends on Canada as its largest, most secure, most stable, and friendliest supplier of energy.

In addition to our economic partnership, in the post-9/11 world Canada and the United States face common security threats.

To protect our economy and our country, Stephen Harper's Government has taken action to make our borders more secure, while keeping them open to legitimate trade and travel. But more is needed.

For this reason, earlier this year Prime Minister Stephen Harper and President Barack Obama announced that **Canada and the United States will work together to find new ways to cut regulatory barriers to cross-border trade and travel to improve competitiveness, while excluding terrorists and criminals who pose a threat to both countries**, focusing on shared information, joint planning, and compatible procedures and inspection technology. <sup>13</sup>

## 12 EXPANDING CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE

In the five years since we were first elected to office, Stephen Harper's government has signed new trade agreements with eight countries, and we are in negotiations with many more.

In contrast, during its 13 years in power, the previous Liberal government signed only three new trade agreements.

Fortunately, under Stephen Harper's government, we are quickly making up for lost time, opening new markets for Canadian businesses and creating good new jobs for Canadian workers.

## 13 PERIMETER SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

On February 4, 2011, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and President Barack Obama announced the Declaration on a Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness.

The Declaration outlines the development of a joint plan of action in four areas:

- addressing threats early;
- trade facilitation, economic growth, and jobs;
- integrated cross-border law enforcement; and
- critical infrastructure and cyber-security.

To begin realizing the goals of the Declaration, Prime Minister Harper and President Obama also announced two high-level bilateral groups:

- the Beyond the Border Working Group, to propose a joint plan of action and oversee its implementation; and
- the Regulatory Cooperation Council, to reduce red tape for businesses.

As sovereign countries, we will take action to advance our common interests. We will not replace or eliminate the border; but where possible we will streamline and decongest it.

The result will be greater security, continued economic growth, and more jobs for Canadians in the years to come.

### **STRATEGIC GATEWAYS AND TRADE CORRIDORS**

Stephen Harper's Government has worked hard to open new markets for Canadian businesses, to help create jobs and long-term economic growth.

At the same time, we are ensuring Canada is ready to make the most of these new opportunities, and to take advantage of our position in global supply chains, by investing in trade and transportation infrastructure. We are developing strategic gateways and trade corridors in Canada to provide the best links between North America and Asia, South America, Europe, and South Asia, and within the North American market itself.

Here are some examples of our actions so far in support of Canada's strategic gateways:

- twinning the Simon Fraser Bridge in Prince George, B.C.;
- twinning the Trans-Canada Highway through Banff;
- opening the Pitt River Bridge to traffic in B.C.'s Lower Mainland;
- investing in repairs to the Champlain Bridge and other key bridges and related infrastructure;
- supporting the expansion and renewal of Quebec City's Jean-Lesage International Airport;
- providing substantial support for the Windsor-Essex Parkway, the extension of Highway 401 in Windsor;
- working to advance the construction of a new international bridge in the Windsor-Detroit trade corridor — among other things, by extending financing to project components in Michigan;
- making possible the removal of tolls on the Saint John Harbour Bridge, and pledging support for the refurbishment of the Bridge;
- investing in runway improvements/extensions at Fredericton International Airport, Greater Moncton International Airport, and Halifax Stanfield International Airport; and
- investing in improvements to the Trans-Canada Highway on PEI, the expansion of the Charlottetown Airport terminal, and measures to enhance safety and improve traffic flow on the Confederation Bridge.

To build on our actions so far, we will:

- **complete the implementation of our Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative;**
- build on the Memorandum of Understanding to **develop an Ontario-Quebec Continental Gateway and Trade Corridor Strategy;** and

- **implement the Atlantic Gateway and Trade Corridor Strategy**, to promote and strengthen this crucial part of Canada's trade and transportation infrastructure.

### **CUT RED TAPE: A ONE-FOR-ONE RULE**

Small and medium-sized businesses are crucial to our economy – they employ the majority of Canadians and create more jobs than any other sector. But the more time and money they're forced to spend on government paperwork, the less time and money they have to create jobs in our communities.

Stephen Harper's Government has taken action to cut red tape. We have:

- reduced the paperwork burden on small businesses by 20 percent; and
- launched the Red Tape Reduction Commission, made up of entrepreneurs and Members of Parliament, to identify additional measures to reduce bureaucratic obstacles to job creation.

Now we'll take the next steps. We will legislate a **One-for-One Rule** – **every time the government proposes a new regulation, it must eliminate an existing one**; and we will give the Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism responsibility to ensure departments follow the new rule.

The rule will be designed to maintain the highest standards in all areas, including health and safety, while promoting a culture shift in government, in favour of the needs of Canadian small businesses.

### **THE ONE-STOP SHOP FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESSES**

Stephen Harper's Government has made it easier for entrepreneurs to start or expand their businesses, through our strong support for BizPaL – an online service providing streamlined, customized "one-stop shopping" for information on all permits and licences that may be required by the federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

Because of our support, BizPaL is now available in the majority of Canadian municipalities, making it easier for small businesses to get started and to grow, and to create jobs for Canadians.

We will **provide permanent support for BizPaL**, to help extend this useful tool to even more communities across the country. <sup>14</sup>

### **HELP MANUFACTURERS INVEST AND CREATE JOBS**

Since 2006, Stephen Harper's Government has taken strong action to protect and create manufacturing jobs in Canada.

In 2009 and 2010 we took action to eliminate tariffs on machinery and equipment and on production inputs. This will give Canada the status of being the first G20 country to become a tariff-free zone for manufacturers.

It will help our manufacturers to invest and innovate, especially small- and medium-sized manufacturers. It will help keep jobs in Canada, and create new jobs for Canadians for years to come.

In addition, before the global recession Stephen Harper's Government allowed accelerated Capital Cost Allowance treatment for

<sup>14</sup> **THE IGNATIEFF-LED COALITION** with the NDP and Bloc Québécois **opposed this measure to help Canadian small businesses**, when they opposed Stephen Harper's Budget last month, and chose instead to force an unnecessary and opportunistic election.

investments in machinery and equipment, to encourage manufacturers to retool and stay competitive.

When the recession hit Canada, we extended the measure, to help businesses grow and create jobs. But the global recovery remains fragile, and many Canadian businesses are reluctant to invest and to hire.

We will help address this problem, by **extending the 50-percent straight-line accelerated Capital Cost Allowance rate** for manufacturing or processing machinery and equipment, by an additional two years. <sup>15</sup>

### **SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Stephen Harper's Government has provided strong support for research and development. Our goal is to promote innovation – and ultimately to help create good new jobs and foster long-term economic growth.

Among other things, we have:

- made substantial new investments in research and development through Canada's research granting councils;
- established the Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program, to attract and retain the world's top researchers;
- established the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships and the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships, to attract and retain the brightest minds from Canada and around the world;
- provided new funds to the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program, to expand its initiatives for small- and medium-sized enterprises;
- established the Strategic Aerospace and Defence Initiative to support excellence in Canadian research and development in aerospace and defence; and
- supported leading-edge Canadian scientific endeavours through organizations such as the Canadian Space Agency, the Rick Hansen Foundation, and the Institute for Quantum Computing.

Building on our support for world-class research, a re-elected Stephen Harper Government will make new investments to:

- **establish 10 additional Canada Excellence Research Chairs;**
- **support the outstanding work of the Institut national d'optique** in the fields of optics and photonics;
- **invest in strengthening the Perimeter Institute's** position as a world-leading research centre for theoretical physics; and
- leverage funding to **support Brain Canada's** efforts to develop new diagnostics, treatments and cures for brain disorders, including Alzheimer's disease. <sup>16</sup>

In 2010 we launched an independent expert panel to conduct a comprehensive review of all federal business research and development initiatives and to recommend ways to ensure our investments deliver results.

**15 THE IGNATIEFF-LED COALITION** with the NDP and Bloc Québécois **opposed this measure to help Canadian manufacturers**, when they opposed Stephen Harper's Budget last month, and chose instead to force an unnecessary and opportunistic election.

**16 THE IGNATIEFF-LED COALITION** with the NDP and Bloc Québécois **opposed these measures to support research and development**, when they opposed Stephen Harper's Budget last month, and chose instead to force an unnecessary and opportunistic election.

We will **take action on the findings of the Research and Development Review Panel**, when it submits its report later this year.

### **DIGITAL ECONOMY STRATEGY**

In 2007 Stephen Harper's Government announced the Science and Technology Strategy.

The Strategy is designed to build on Canada's advantages in the global economy by encouraging private-sector investment in research and development and enrolment in university science and engineering programs – with the goal of creating good new jobs and a higher quality of life for Canadians.

In 2010 we consulted experts and businesspeople on positioning Canada to seize the opportunities presented by new information and communications technologies. Our purpose is to build on our actions so far in this area – for example:

- our plan to extend broadband coverage to 200,000 additional households in rural and remote regions; and
- our successful efforts to increase competition and choice and to lower costs for wireless consumers.

Later this spring, a re-elected Stephen Harper Government will **announce and begin implementing a Digital Economy Strategy**, focused on five priorities:

- building world-class digital infrastructure;
- encouraging businesses to adopt digital technologies;
- supporting digital skills development;
- fostering the growth of Canadian companies supplying digital technologies to global markets; and
- creating made-in-Canada content across all platforms, to bring Canada to the world.

To achieve these goals, among other specific actions we will:

- support collaborative projects between colleges and small- and medium-sized businesses to **accelerate the adoption of information and communications technologies**;
- **promote enrolment in post-secondary science, technology, engineering and mathematics** programs; and
- **build Canada's digital content** through additional support for the Canada Media Fund. <sup>17</sup>

A Stephen Harper-led majority Government will also reintroduce and **pass the Copyright Modernization Act**, a key pillar in our commitment to make Canada a leader in the global digital economy.

This balanced, commonsense legislation recognizes the practical priorities of teachers, students, artists, families, and technology companies, among others, while aligning Canada with international standards. It respects both the rights of creators and the interests of consumers.

It will ensure that Canada's copyright law will be responsive in a fast-changing digital world, while protecting and creating jobs, promoting innovation, and attracting investment to Canada.

Also, as part of the next wireless spectrum auction, **we will set aside**

### **17 THE IGNATIEFF-LED COALITION**

with the NDP and Bloc Québécois **opposed these measures to create good jobs in the digital economy**, when they opposed Stephen Harper's Budget last month, and chose instead to force an unnecessary and opportunistic election.

spectrum for emergency responders.

### **PROMOTE CANADA'S WORLD-CLASS AEROSPACE INDUSTRY**

Canada's export-oriented aerospace industry – the fifth largest in the world – employs more than 80,000 Canadians in well-paid, highly-skilled jobs in almost every region of the country. It is also one of the top investors in industrial research and development – high-tech innovation that attracts talent to Canada and creates more good new jobs for Canadians.

To support this world-class Canadian industry, Stephen Harper's Government has:

- established the Strategic Aerospace and Defence Initiative, to leverage private-sector investment in research and development in this important and growing sector of our economy; and
- helped maintain and create jobs in the industry in every region of the country through our investments in re-equipping the Canadian Armed Forces.

But the vast majority of the Canadian aerospace industry's clients are civilian, and more than 80 percent of its revenues come from exports. In fact, the industry is Canada's leading exporter of advanced technology.

Through a consultative process involving the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada and their member firms, we will conduct a comprehensive review of policies and programs to **develop a federal policy framework to maximize the competitiveness of Canada's aerospace and space industry.**

We will also **ensure stable funding is provided for the Strategic Aerospace and Defence Initiative.**

### **SUPPORT CANADIAN AEROSPACE JOBS**

Stephen Harper's Government has provided strong support for jobs in Canada's world-class aerospace industry.

Among other things, we have committed to purchasing the next-generation fighter jet, the F-35 – a necessary and responsible investment to re-equip Canada's air force and to strengthen Canadian sovereignty.

The previous Liberal government invested in the development of the F-35, and we supported the decision, because it was and is the best option for Canada.

But now Michael Ignatieff and his Coalition partners, the NDP and Bloc Québécois, have promised to scrap it – a reckless and irresponsible promise which would sacrifice \$12 billion in possible economic benefits across the country, and kill thousands of Canadian jobs.

A re-elected Stephen Harper Government will **follow through on the purchase of the F-35**, to strengthen the Canadian Armed Forces and to support thousands of jobs for Canadian aerospace workers across the country.

## **NATIONAL SHIPBUILDING PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

Stephen Harper's Government has taken strong action to provide the Canadian Armed Forces the equipment they need to protect and defend our country – and in so doing we are supporting and creating well-paid, highly skilled jobs across the country.

In 2010 we announced the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy, to re-equip the navy and the Canadian Coast Guard.

The Strategy will:

- bring predictability to federal ship procurement and eliminate cycles of boom and bust;
- help revitalize Canadian shipyards; and
- support the broader Canadian marine industry and its suppliers.

The Strategy was developed after consultations with industry stakeholders. It is designed to promote opportunities for shipyards and other businesses across the country, including small businesses, while reducing production costs and ensuring the best value for taxpayers.

Stephen Harper's Government has already taken action to begin re-equipping the navy and the Coast Guard. For example, we have:

- committed to invest in new Arctic patrol ships; and
- started planning for the launch of a new polar-class icebreaker, the John G. Diefenbaker.

We will **complete the implementation of the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy**, to ensure our men and women in uniform have the tools they need to do their job, and to create good jobs in high-tech industries across Canada.

## **ESTABLISHING A NEW AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING AT CFB BAGOTVILLE**

As part of our Government's commitment to strengthen the military and create jobs in all regions of the country, we remain committed to establishing a new air expeditionary wing at CFB Bagotville.

The new expeditionary wing will enhance the Canadian Armed Forces' ability to respond quickly and decisively to domestic or international needs. And the growth in the number of military families will create jobs and growth in the Saguenay region.

We will:

- take action to **establish a new air expeditionary wing before the end of 2011**; and
- follow through on our commitment to **station 550 personnel at Bagotville for this purpose by 2015**.

To begin to implement these commitments, we will **station 250 personnel at Bagotville by the end of 2011**. Depending on any demands placed on the air force – such as the allied operations in Libya, the Middle East, or Central Asia – if necessary this deadline may be

extended into early 2012.

### **FEDERAL TOURISM STRATEGY**

Canada's tourism industry is an important pillar of our economy, and provides approximately 650,000 jobs for Canadians. Stephen Harper's Government has taken action to support this sector, through:

- major investments to upgrade infrastructure in our National Parks and National Historic Sites of Canada;
- our successful efforts to gain Approved Destination Status to attract tourists from China – a change which Canadian governments had sought for more than a decade, providing a huge boost to the Canadian tourism industry; and
- strong support for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games – a spectacular success which proved once again that Canada is one of the world's great tourist destinations.

But Canada is facing increasingly stiff competition in the global tourism market. We will build on our efforts to attract more visitors to Canada, and to encourage Canadians to explore our own magnificent country.

We will **announce and implement a Federal Tourism Strategy**, to ensure consultation and collaboration among all industry stakeholders, including small-business operators, who form the backbone of the Canadian tourism industry.

In addition, we will invest in **promoting events connected to the 100th anniversaries of the Calgary Stampede and the Grey Cup**, in 2012.

We will also **support the commemoration of upcoming milestones in Canadian history**, drawing visitors from abroad – and encouraging Canadians to enjoy and appreciate our own magnificent country.

We will invest in celebrating:

- the bicentennial of the **War of 1812**;
- Her Majesty's **Diamond Jubilee**, in 2012;
- the 150<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of the **Charlottetown Conference**, in 2014;
- the bicentennial of the birth of **Sir John A. Macdonald**, in 2015; and
- the **150th anniversary of Confederation**, in 2017.

### **SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Stephen Harper's Government has taken strong action to support new opportunities and a higher quality of life for Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, we have made substantial investments in:

- better infrastructure in First Nations communities – including new and better housing, schools, drinking-water and waste-water systems, and health and police infrastructure; and

- expanded Aboriginal skills and training opportunities.

We also established a new stand-alone regional development agency, CanNor, to promote economic development in Canada's North.

We will build on these actions, by:

- providing **new investments in First Nations Land Management**, allowing First Nations to promote the development of their reserve lands and resources – a policy which has already led to new greater investment on reserve lands and more job opportunities for both Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals;
- expanding **adult basic education programming in the territories**, which will help increase education and employment levels among Aboriginals in the North;
- supporting **environmental safety upgrades to the fuel tanks that power essential community infrastructure** in many remote and rural First Nations communities; and
- promoting the deployment of **clean energy technologies** in Aboriginal and Northern communities. <sup>18</sup>

#### **LONG-TERM PLAN FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL**

Stephen Harper's Government has taken historic action in collaboration with the provinces and municipalities to modernize Canada's infrastructure, to create jobs, and to support long-term economic growth:

- in 2007 we established the Building Canada Fund, a historic, long-term investment in our National Highway System, drinking-water and wastewater systems, public transit, and green energy projects;
- in 2008 we made the Gas Tax Fund permanent, to help municipalities plan and fund improvements to essential infrastructure; and
- in 2009 and 2010, through our Economic Action Plan we implemented the largest federal investment in infrastructure in more than 60 years, to provide better roads, bridges, border crossings, public transit, and college and university facilities across the country.

The Building Canada Plan is set to expire in 2014; and after the accomplishments of recent years, we need to take stock of our efforts and future needs.

Going forward, we will **work with provinces, territories, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other stakeholders to develop a long-term plan for public infrastructure** that extends beyond the expiry of the Building Canada Plan.

#### **PROFESSIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES**

Stephen Harper's Government will continue directing infrastructure investments to priorities. **We will maintain the consistent policy of the federal government not to fund professional sports facilities, and we will apply it uniformly across the country.**

<sup>18</sup> **THE IGNATIEFF-LED COALITION** with the NDP and Bloc Québécois **opposed these measures to support Aboriginal Canadians**, when they opposed Stephen Harper's Budget last month, and chose instead to force an unnecessary and opportunistic election.

### **CANADIAN SECURITIES REGULATOR**

The global financial crisis has shown that Canada needs a national securities regulator.

In 2010 our Government tabled for information a proposed Canadian Securities Act. At the same time we referred it to the Supreme Court of Canada for a ruling on whether Parliament has the constitutional authority to enact the proposed legislation.

**We will continue working with willing provinces and territories to establish a Canadian securities regulator.** We encourage all jurisdictions to partner and help shape this new institution. **We will not proceed unless the Supreme Court rules that this matter is within our jurisdiction.**

### **REACHING A TAX HARMONIZATION AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC**

Stephen Harper's Government respects provincial jurisdiction, and we respect the provinces' freedom to choose whether to harmonize with the GST.

The Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec have engaged in good faith negotiations to complete a harmonization agreement that respects Quebec's role in administration, legislation and in other aspects of the system and is consistent with the spirit of existing harmonization agreements with other provinces.

We had made substantial progress – in fact we were well advanced in the final stages of negotiations – before the Bloc Québécois forced an unnecessary and opportunistic election. This has delayed the final stages of our government-to-government negotiations.

In spite of this unnecessary delay caused by the Bloc Québécois, **a re-elected Conservative Government will work expeditiously with the Government of Quebec to complete a harmonization agreement as soon as practical after the election and in no event later than September 15, 2011.** Such an agreement will be positive for the economy and will be fair for the people in every region of Quebec.