

On behalf of the Chair of the St. John's Board of Trade, please note the following comments on the Conference Board of Canada report re attractiveness of cities for migration (1), and the Parliamentary Budget Office report re federal government structural budget balance (2).

Thank you.

1. "The Board of Trade is pleased with the Conference Board of Canada report stating that St. John's has what it takes to attract migrants," said Board Chair Bruce Templeton. "There have been gains locally and in the province on in-migration; now we have confirmation that St. John's is a great place to live, work and play. Business, labour and government have to work together to tell that story to achieve even better migration results."
2. "The report by the Parliamentary Budget Officer of a structural deficit at the federal level is quite a scary proposition," said St. John's Board of Trade Chair Bruce Templeton. "It would seem to be a precursor to tax hikes or cutbacks, or a combination of both. The Board of Trade is very concerned about the options the federal government has, and the actions that it might take particularly in light of the things that this province needs such as investment in Marine Atlantic, Lower Churchill and other significant matters that not only help our province grow and succeed but contribute to Canada as a whole." Incoming Chair Derek Sullivan added, "The decisions of the federal government are something that the Board of Trade will be watching quite closely and we will be taking up any concerns that affect our membership and our community directly to local Members of Parliament as well as members of the government. The impacts on the city and the province could be significant and we will make sure that local voices are heard in Ottawa."