



***Pierre Lemieux,
Député / Member of Parliament
Glengarry-Prescott-Russell***

For immediate release

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“Budget 2010 Strikes the Right Balance” says MP Pierre Lemieux

“Budget 2010 strikes the right balance by focusing on Canadians’ priorities while placing a restraint on spending growth.”

Pierre Lemieux, MP

OTTAWA – MP Pierre Lemieux supports the 2010 Federal Budget, tabled in the House of Commons by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty on March 4, 2010. Before implementing Year Two of the Economic Action Plan, the Government consulted widely on the best way forward for the economy – with hundreds of meetings, online consultations, roundtables and town halls organized with Canadians from coast-to-coast. “We wanted to know what everyday Canadians thought, not just special interest groups in Ottawa,” said Mr. Lemieux. “When we consult, we listen. Canadians told us to stay the course - solidify the recovery, focus on jobs, and help create a Canada where business can grow, innovate and prosper, and that is what we are doing.”

Canada’s Economic Action Plan has helped Canada through the most difficult economic downturn since the 1930’s. Since 2009, the Plan has:

- Helped create over 135,000 net new jobs since July 2009
- Saved 225,000 jobs through the expanded Work-Sharing program
- Committed over 90 per cent of funding to specific projects
- Started or completed approximately 16,000 infrastructure projects
- Delivered \$3 billion in general personal income tax relief
- Helped families purchase and renovate their homes through \$3 billion in tax relief, like the First-Time Homebuyer’s Tax Credit and Home Renovation Tax Credit

The Conservatives, in Budget 2010, will be injecting \$19-billion of new stimulus to create and protect jobs, secure Canada’s economic recovery and sustain the nation’s economic advantage. To accomplish this goal, the government announced the following measures:

- **\$3.2 billion in personal income tax relief** by adjustments to federal tax brackets, higher child benefits for parents and lower taxes for low- and middle-income seniors.
- **Over \$4 billion for Re-training & worker support** to enhance EI benefits and training opportunities to transition workers from current challenges towards future prosperity



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- **\$7.7 billion for new Infrastructure projects** to create jobs, modernize infrastructure, support home ownership, stimulate the housing sector, and improve housing across Canada
- **Over \$1.9 billion in R&D investment** to develop and attract talent, strengthen research capacity, improve commercialization, accelerate expanding market access and competitiveness.
- **\$2.2 billion in targeted support** to industries and communities to assist in creating and maintaining jobs in sectors like forestry, agriculture, small business, tourism, and culture.

Mr. Lemieux stated, “Glengarry-Prescott-Russell will benefit from Budget 2010, our commitment to increase the length of work-sharing agreements, and by offering over \$100 million across Canada in support of young workers to help them find jobs.” He added, “The Budget also strengthens the manufacturing sector by making Canada a tariff-free zone for manufacturing inputs which will boost new investment and job creation. This will help businesses all across Glengarry-Prescott-Russell.”

Mr Lemieux stated, “I am particularly pleased with the agriculture initiatives in the Budget.” With respect to Agriculture, the Government will dedicate \$75 million to ensure that Canadian cattle producers continue to have access to competitive processing operations in Canada. Dairy Farmers of Canada has applauded this announcement which supports beef and dairy producers. Jacques Laforge, President of Dairy Farmers of Canada stated, "The Government of Canada has really stepped up to the plate. This announcement confirms they heard dairy and beef producers' requests for assistance to alleviate the cost disadvantage we face in processing our cattle. In the end, all Canadians will benefit from this government action through even better quality and safety standards in the food chain.”

Overall, Budget 2010 has outlined a 3-point plan for returning to budgetary balance once the economy has recovered. This plan is as follows:

1. **Ending the stimulus as planned**: The Government will follow through with the exit strategy built into the Economic Action Plan. Temporary measures in the Action Plan will be wound down as planned.
2. **Targeted spending growth restraint**: The Government will restrain spending through targeted measures. Towards achieving this objective, Budget 2010 proposes \$17.6 billion in savings over five years.
3. **Comprehensive reviews of government**: The Government will undertake a comprehensive review of government administrative functions and overhead costs.

Mr. Lemieux noted, “This plan will cut the deficit nearly in half in two years, and cut it by two-thirds in three years. Budget 2010 strikes the right balance by focusing on Canadians’ priorities



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while placing a restraint on spending growth. ” He continued, “Canadians are impressed with how we have managed Canada’s economy in these difficult times. They have full confidence that we will continue to take action to ensure Canada’s economic recovery, while at the same time putting in place the necessary measures to reduce the deficit without raising taxes.”