

2011 Federal Election Platform Policies

The content of this grid was compiled by the Canadian Chamber's policy team based on the platforms of the Bloc Québécois (BQ), the Conservative Party, the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party (NDP). It also reflects additional information received from the parties' responses to a policy questionnaire sent to them – along with our election platform – on April 6.

Table of Contents

Fiscal Policy	2-5
Canada-U.S. Relations	5-6
SMEs	6-7
Enhancing & Diversifying International Trade	7
Internal Trade	7-8
Energy & the Environment	8-9
Skills Development & Labour/Workforce Policy	9-12
Transportation & Infrastructure	12-14
Encouraging & Rewarding Innovation	14-15

Policy Statement	The Canadian Chamber of Commerce	Bloc Québécois	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal Party of Canada	New Democratic Party
FISCAL POLICY					
Budgeting Framework	<p>Supports prudent budget planning by building into the budget projections a Contingency Reserve (to cushion against unanticipated events) and an additional amount for economic prudence (to cover risks arising from adverse errors in the economic forecast) or forecast “protection” augmented through a different approach. If unused, these funds should go toward the deficit.</p> <p>Supports maintaining five-year fiscal projections for planning purposes and public discussion, but believes budget decisions should be made within a rolling two-year horizon.</p>		<p>Base fiscal projections on prudent assumptions to cover for risk and uncertainties in the economic outlook by adjusting downwards private sector forecasts for nominal GDP for budget planning purposes in each year of the forecast.</p> <p>Maintain the five-year planning horizon to budgeting.</p>	<p>Set aside \$1.5 billion per year in fiscal year 2011-12 and 2012-13 for Prudence Reserve to manage any unforeseen events. If the reserve is not needed, it will go toward the deficit.</p> <p>Restore a two-year-rolling-target approach to budgeting.</p>	<p>Maintains the fiscal framework of the March 2011 Budget—the same economic assumptions and five-year planning horizon to budgeting.</p>
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Deficit-Reduction Strategy	<p>Eliminate deficits by 2015 by reining in spending, not raising taxes.</p> <p>Ensure that the debt-to-GDP ratio falls below 30% by 2015.</p>	<p>Eliminate deficits by 2015-16 by controlling spending, not raising taxes on individuals (other than a new surtax on high incomes and bonuses for corporate executives) or on businesses except for oil companies (abolish tax breaks) and those who benefit from tax havens (abolish loopholes).</p>	<p>Eliminate deficits by 2014-15 by restraining growth in direct program spending and eliminating waste, and without raising taxes.</p> <p>Reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio to below 30% in 2015-16.</p>	<p>Reduce the deficit to 1% of GDP within two years (i.e. to approximately \$19 billion in 2012-13). Set subsequent, rolling targets to continue decreasing the deficit every year after that until the federal books are returned to surplus.</p> <p>Expects to return to a balanced budget by 2015. However, will not make projections based on uncertain long term forecasts.</p>	<p>Balance the federal budget within the next 4 years, as per the Department of Finance projections.</p>
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Program Spending Management	<p>Restrain growth in program spending to about 1.6% per year through fiscal 2015-16.</p> <p>Broaden the scope of spending review beyond direct program expenses.</p>	<p>Cut government spending by reducing the amount spent on outsourcing and other operating expenses (machinery and equipment, repair and maintenance and transportation and communications). Increase manpower where the need arises, and will aim to</p>	<p>Conduct strategic program reviews of programs and spending on a four-year cycle. The first four-year cycle of the strategic review exercise was completed in 2010.</p> <p>A one-year Strategic and Operating</p>	<p>Review all federal program spending and implement sustainable savings. Seek the best analysis and ideas from the professional public service. Cut wasteful spending, including, but not limited to taxpayer-funded promotional advertising. Reduce the</p>	<p>Assess all federal programs for their impacts on regions.</p> <p>Reallocate spending priorities - more resources for the environment, for people, and for provincial actions, with less resources being given to the</p>

	Review all government spending on a four-year cycle to determine where the payoffs are the greatest, identify areas where spending can be reduced or eliminated, and evaluate whether activities or spending should properly remain at the federal level or should be undertaken by the provinces/territories.	eliminate duplication and overlap arising from intrusion into fields that do not fall under the federal government's jurisdiction.	Review, to be completed in 2011-12, will examine direct program spending with the objective of achieving at least \$4 billion in ongoing annual savings by 2014-15. The review will place particular emphasis on generating savings from operating expenses and improving productivity, while examining the relevance and effectiveness of programs.	size of the Cabinet, PMO staff and spending on consultants. Reallocate spending from lower priorities (like fighter jets) to higher priorities (investments in middle-class families).	corporate sector.
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Business Income Taxes	Refrain from increasing business taxes to balance the budget. Proceed with the legislated plan to reduce the federal general corporate income tax rate to 15% as of January 1, 2012 from 16.5% in 2011.	Will not proceed with the legislated plan to reduce the federal general corporate income tax rate to 15% as of January 1, 2012. Moreover, it will increase the rate to 18%. Require private companies and Canadian banks to report to the government of Canada money transfers to, and investment in tax havens. Companies that provide their employees stock options or other non-monetary benefits will not be allowed to deduct these amounts from their taxable income.	Proceed with the legislated plan to cut the federal general corporate income tax rate to 15% as of January 1, 2012, from 16.5% in 2011.	Will not proceed with the legislated plan to reduce the federal general corporate income tax rate from 16.5% in 2011 to 15% as of January 1, 2012. Moreover, it will increase the rate to 18%. Will not increase small business tax rates.	Will not proceed with the legislated plan to reduce the federal general corporate income tax rate from 16.5% in 2011 to 15% as of January 1, 2012. Moreover, it will increase the rate to 19.5%. Will ensure that the combined federal/provincial Corporate Income Tax rate is always below the U.S.' federal corporate tax rate. Cut the small business tax rate to 9% from 11%. Crack down on offshore tax havens.
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Personal Income Taxes	Refrain from hiking personal income taxes to balance the budget. Raise the threshold at which the top marginal personal income tax rate applies to \$200,000 as fiscal conditions permit. Reduce the lowest personal income tax rate from 15% to 14%, and the 22% rate to 21% as fiscal conditions permit.	Impose a 2% surcharge on taxpayers with annual income between \$150,000 and \$250,000 and a 3% surcharge on taxpayers with annual incomes of over \$250,000. Introduce a tax on super non-monetary bonuses given to the senior management of companies. The tax will apply to bonuses in the form of stock options or other financial vehicles related to personal and non-monetary benefits (like cottages, vacation, personal transportation, etc).	Will not raise personal income taxes. Allow families with children under 18 to split their income for tax purposes once budget is balanced.	Will not raise personal income taxes. Will cap the amount an employee can claim through the stock option deduction at \$50,000 annually.	

		Eliminate all use of tax havens for individual Canadians.			
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<p>Payroll Taxes</p> <p>Employment Insurance (EI)</p>	<p>Immediately amend the rate-setting formula with a view of balancing the EI Account over the business cycle of up to 10 years.</p> <p>Operate the EI program as a true insurance program to facilitate further reductions in EI premium rates. Remove the social-program aspects of EI from the regular premium structure, and fund these programs out of general revenue (i.e. from taxes collected).</p> <p>Gradually (i.e. over a five year period) reduce the employer EI premium rate to equal that paid by employees; implement a system that allows for over-contributions by employers to be refunded; ensure equal access to benefits across Canada by standardizing eligibility requirements at 560 hours and benefit duration at 22 to 45 weeks; maintain a replacement rate of 55% of insurance earnings; and retain the two-week waiting period before benefits commence.</p>	<p>Eliminate all use of tax havens for individual Canadians.</p> <p>Establish an independent EI Account (i.e. outside of the government's books).</p> <p>Proposes that the Canada EI Commission invest the assets held in the EI Account with a financial institution, body corporate or association with a view of achieving a maximum rate of return without undue risk of loss</p> <p>Proposes, to the extent possible, that the Canada EI Commission set premium rates to balance the EI Account over the business cycle; maintain stable rate levels; and ensure that any surplus in the EI Account does not exceed \$15 billion.</p> <p>Prefers that social programs financed through the EI Account be funded out of general revenue.</p> <p>Will amend the Employment Insurance Act to establish an eligibility threshold of 360 hours for all; eliminate the two-week waiting period; increase the benefit rate from 55% to 60% of wages earned; perform a calculation based on the best 12 weeks of work; possibly extend the scheme on a voluntary basis to workers and the self-employed; exempt temporary foreign workers from having to contribute to the plan as they are not entitled to benefits; reimburse the premiums paid by students; and establish a program of income support for older workers.</p> <p>Ensure the Canada EI Commission is composed of an equal number of representatives of employees and employers.</p>	<p>Provide a temporary Hiring Credit for Small Business of up to \$1,000 against a small firm's increase in its 2011 EI premiums over those paid in 2010 to encourage hiring.</p> <p>Extend work-sharing agreements by up to 16 weeks so that companies can avoid layoffs by offering EI benefits to workers willing to work a reduced work week while their company recovers.</p> <p>Renew the Best 14 Weeks and Working While on Claim EI pilot projects for one year.</p>	<p>Replace the six-week EI compassionate care provision with a new six-month Family Care Employment Insurance Benefit so that more Canadians can take time off work to care for gravely ill family members at home without having to quit their jobs. Will not increase EI premiums to fund this measure.</p> <p>Immediately put in place a Youth Hiring Incentive for small and medium-sized businesses—a 100 % Employment Insurance holiday for every Canadian youth age 18 to 25 SMEs hire. This incentive will apply for three years, and be evaluated in the third year to verify results and administrative efficiency.</p> <p>Believes the federal government must seek additional changes to the EI program to better meet the needs of Canadians.</p>	<p>Introduce a Job Creation Tax Credit that will provide up to \$4,500 per new hire. Employers will receive a one-year rebate on the employer contributions for the Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance premiums for each new employee hired.</p> <p>Help new parents who have taken maternity and parental leave by fixing the loophole that would make them ineligible for EI benefits once returning to work.</p> <p>Strengthen Employment Insurance Compassionate Care benefits by fixing eligibility rules and improving coverage from six weeks to six months.</p> <p>Extend Employment Insurance stimulus measures until unemployment falls to pre-recession levels.</p> <p>In practical steps and as finances permit, will amend the Employment Insurance Act to: eliminate the two-week waiting period; return the qualifying period to a minimum of 360 hours of work, regardless of the regional rate of unemployment; raise the rate of benefits to 60% and base benefits on the best 12 weeks in the qualifying period; and improve the quality and monitoring of training and re-training.</p>

		Reimburse the \$54 billion surplus that had accumulated in the EI fund over the 1994-95 to 2006-07 period to the EI Account.			
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CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS					
Border Policy	<p>Work through the Beyond the Border Working Group (BBWG) to improve the efficiency of the Canada-U.S. border.</p> <p>Ensure that the CBSA and other government departments with border mandates offer 24/7 border services at all major crossings.</p> <p>Ensure all departments and agencies with border mandates make it a priority to implement the Single Window Initiative for border reporting requirements.</p> <p>Effectively work with the U.S. government to decrease costs, maximize benefits, and regularly report on the benefits of trusted shipper and traveller programs.</p> <p>Increase border infrastructure investments and work with the U.S. government to ensure the coordinated and timely maintenance and development of border infrastructure including funding for a new crossing in the Windsor-Detroit area.</p> <p>Work with the U.S. government and business communities on both sides of the border to further develop a robust plan to manage the movement of people and goods during border disruptions.</p>	<p>Supports reopening the recently closed border crossings in Quebec and opposes all reductions in border services without proper consultations.</p> <p>Supports investment in the Champlain Bridge to facilitate trade with the U.S.</p>	<p>Announced the BBWG and committed to improving the efficiency of the Canada-U.S. border.</p> <p>Will focus on information sharing, joint planning and the adoption of compatible inspection technology and procedures at the border.</p> <p>Supports the construction of a New International Trade Crossing in the Windsor-Detroit area.</p>	<p>Will explore, new administrative arrangements for improving the efficiency of the Canada-U.S. border.</p> <p>Supports improved border efficiency in principal but is concerned about the implications of the Harper-Obama announcement.</p> <p>Acknowledges the importance of the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) project and will work with all stakeholders to ensure the rapid launch of this project.</p>	<p>Supports improved border efficiency in principal but is concerned about the implications of the Harper-Obama announcement.</p> <p>Will work with the Beyond the Border Working Group to improve the efficiency of the Canada-U.S. border. Will ensure that this work does not weaken the ability of municipal, provincial/territorial and federal governments to adopt beneficial regulatory or procurement policies.</p> <p>Will maintain the Gateways and Border Crossings Fund and make sure that these funds are appropriately allocated.</p> <p>Supports a loan to the State of Michigan to be used for the construction of the DRIC.</p>

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Trade	Maintain a strong and mutually beneficial economic partnership with the U.S. Work to stop the adoption of protectionist measures in the U.S.	Encourages the adoption, where possible, of buy local policies for government procurement opportunities.		Will work through the Global Networks Strategy to raise the profile of the Canada-U.S. relationship.	
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Regulatory Cooperation	Work with the U.S. through the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) to Accelerate regulatory cooperation/mutual recognition with the U.S.	Continue to study the full effects of regulatory alignment with the U.S. particularly regarding the certification of organic foods. Supports regulatory alignment with the U.S. for pesticides so long as it does not lead to the adoption of the lowest common level of standards.	Created the RCC to reduce red-tape and to eliminate unnecessary regulatory differences between Canada and the U.S.		Concerned that an agreement with the U.S. will lead to lower standards of food safety. Are committed to regulatory cooperation that will strengthen Canadian health, safety, environment and public services. Supports a balanced approach between regulatory cooperation and the need to protect Canada's sovereignty and the civil rights of Canadians.
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SMEs	Reduce administrative red tape and the compliance burden on SMEs	Will put in place a program inspired by Technology Partnerships Canada. Proposes a series of measures to support SMEs, including implementing a program to support contractors and entrepreneurs in the process of starting or expanding a business that will support local employment, the community as well as women entrepreneurs. Will support the forestry and fisheries sectors to allow companies to develop new markets and new products and to stimulate job creation of SMEs in diversified sectors.	Hiring Credit for Small Business – a one-year EI break for SMEs. One-for-One Rule – when government proposes a new regulation, it must eliminate an existing one. Provide permanent support for BizPaL to help extend it to even more communities across the country. Federal Tourism Strategy to ensure consultation and collaboration among all industry stakeholders, including SMEs.	Youth Hiring Incentive – full EI premium holiday on all new youth (18-25 yr.) hires by SMEs for three years (\$130– \$160 million). Innovation and Productivity Tax Credit and extension of flow-through shares for investment in start-ups in emerging sectors. \$400 million Green Renovation Tax Credit targeting home renovations. Canadians making energy efficient changes to their homes, (such as installing new windows, doors and roofing) will be able to claim a tax credit of up to \$13,500. Will also cover 50% of the cost of the home energy audit required in advance of the renovation. This permanent	Will reduce the Small Business Tax Rate from 11% to 9%. Job Creation Tax Credit to provide up to \$4,500 per new hire. Employers will receive a one-year rebate on the employer contributions for the CPP and Employment Insurance premiums for each new employee hired. Companies and organizations that keep a new employee for 12 months or more will be eligible for a retention bonus of a \$1,000 non-refundable tax credit. Will extend the Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance for eligible machinery and equipment acquired before 2016.

				refundable tax credit will foster growth of energy efficiency SMEs.	Will extend eligibility for the mineral exploration tax for an additional 3 years beyond March 31, 2012, applicable to flow-through share agreements entered into on or before March 31, 2015
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ENHANCING & DIVERSIFYING INTERNATIONAL TRADE	<p>Vigorously pursue free trade agreements (FTAs) and Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (FIPAs) with key markets, including the EU, India.</p> <p>Ensure that a single, pan-Canadian strategy and action plan is prepared for the new economic powerhouses in Asia.</p> <p>Ensure that our defensive interests in negotiating FTAs and FIPAs do not undermine our offensive interests.</p> <p>Ensure the inclusive of services commitments in all of Canada's international trade agreements</p>	<p>Will include clauses in trade agreements to protect culture, workers' rights and the environment.</p> <p>Supports the current Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) negotiations but will watch that supply management remains unthreatened.</p> <p>Wants the review threshold (Investment Canada Act) for foreign direct investment in Canada to return to C\$300 million.</p>	<p>Will aim to complete negotiations on a Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (i.e. Canada-EU CETA) by 2012.</p> <p>Will aim to complete negotiations on a Canada-India FTA (i.e. Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) in 2013.</p> <p>Will complete the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative.</p> <p>Will build on the Memorandum of Understanding to develop an Ontario-Quebec Continental Gateway and Trade Corridor Strategy.</p> <p>Will implement the Atlantic Gateway and Trade Corridor Strategy, to promote and strengthen this crucial part of Canada's trade and transportation infrastructure.</p>	<p>Will revive Team Canada model, while modernizing it to reflect today's realities and make it more sector-specific, with a focus on the areas of clean energy and clean energy technology and education.</p> <p>Will propose Global Network Agreements, first with China and India. They will boost trade, but also go beyond exports and imports, building on people-to-people connections in strategic sectors such as higher education, clean technologies, culture, tourism, financial services, trade logistics, public health and food.</p> <p>Will pursue healthy relations with Europe but make no mention of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).</p>	
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INTERNAL TRADE	<p>Make it a priority to work with the provinces/territories to immediately eliminate all internal trade barriers that impede the free flow of goods, services, and people.</p>	<p>Would fight federal interference in Quebec's jurisdiction.</p> <p>Would withdraw from a National Securities regulator.</p>			

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ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT					
Energy	<p>Work with provinces/territories to develop a Canadian Sustainable Energy Strategy.</p> <p>Develop a national climate change action plan that includes putting a price on carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Will introduce a tax incentive to retrofit homes for energy efficiency and support energy efficiency for business</p> <p>Promote large-scale use of electric cars.</p> <p>Support biofuels from agriculture, household and forestry waste,</p> <p>Will provide renewable energy development assistance.</p> <p>Will abolish “tax giveaways” for the oil sector.</p> <p>Will reduce federal support for non-renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Will introduce mandatory labeling of vehicles for fuel efficiency and emissions.</p>	<p>Supports R&D in clean energy and energy efficiency.</p> <p>Supports viable clean energy projects including Lower Churchill hydro project.</p> <p>Committed to 90% of electricity coming from non-GHG-emitting sources by 2020.</p>	<p>\$13,500 incentive for energy efficient home renovation (\$400M).</p> <p>Canadian Clean Energy Partnership with Canada-wide objectives to advance energy efficiency, fight climate change and manage the long-term transition to low carbon economy.</p> <p>Renewable Power Production Incentive to quadruple low-impact renewable energy and increase renewable energy mix to 10% of electricity output by 2017 (\$1B).</p> <p>Accelerate technologies to eliminate GHG emission differential between oil sands oil and conventional oil.</p> <p>Increase rigor of oil sands regulations and increase investment in science and monitoring.</p> <p>Immediately end ACCA for oil sands investments.</p>	<p>Will develop comprehensive strategy for long-term energy security in low carbon future.</p> <p>Will redirect revenues from auctioning of emissions permits into green technologies, energy conservation, public transit, support for renewable energy development and transition to green economy.</p> <p>Will cut subsidies to non-renewable energy.</p> <p>Will reinstate federal incentives for clean power (including solar, wind, water, tidal, biomass and other renewable sources for electricity production and from industrial co-generation).</p> <p>Will provide support for low-income and energy dependent individuals to balance higher energy costs, including revolving fund to provide support for home energy efficiency, curbing energy consumption and GHG Emissions and create local jobs.</p> <p>Will introduce training programs for green energy workers.</p> <p>Recognize that oil and gas will play a prominent role in our energy mix in medium term.</p> <p>Will discourage bulk exports of unprocessed resources and encourage value-added responsible upgrading, refining and petrochemical manufacturing in Canada.</p> <p>Will introduce a Green Bond Fund to support green energy research and development and commercialization.</p>

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Environment/ Climate Change	<p>Work with all nations to develop an international framework to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions on a long-term basis that includes all major greenhouse gas emitting countries.</p> <p>Develop a system to place a price on carbon emissions which is non-discriminatory among sectors and regions of the country, allows for provincial/territorial harmonization, and supports technology development.</p> <p>Work with provinces/territories to develop a national water strategy</p> <p>Work with provinces/territories to develop an integrated approach to waste management.</p>	<p>Will work to balance economic development and environmental protection along the St. Lawrence River including fighting shoreline erosion.</p> <p>GHG national emission target of 556Mt (6% below 1990 levels) by 2012, 355-444Mt (25-40% below 1990) by 2020 and 118Mt (80%) by 2050.</p> <p>Will establish a carbon exchange in Montreal by 2012.</p>	<p>GHG national emission target of 607Mt (17% below 2005 levels) by 2020 and consistent with U.S.</p> <p>National Conservation Plan to create new protected areas and parks, including Mealy Mountains National Park and Rouge Valley National Park.</p> <p>Will extend the Retrofit Homes program to improve air quality and GHG emissions.</p> <p>Will make new investments to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gases.</p>	<p>Auction tradable GHG emission permits to large industrial facilities.</p> <p>GHG national emission target of 118Mt (80% below 1990 levels) by 2050 and commit to keep temperature rise below 2°C.</p> <p>Will not wait for the U.S. to develop Climate Change Policy.</p> <p>Will work closely with U.S. and other partners on climate change and environmental issues.</p> <p>Will develop a Canadian Freshwater Strategy to address problems such as pollution, drought and cleanup of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.</p> <p>Will engage with the U.S. on carbon pricing, R&D, the development of standards and regulations, the development of clean energy and electricity transmission.</p> <p>Will engage the U.S. administration on clean energy issues such as renewable and clean technology.</p>	<p>Will work with the U.S. to coordinate responses on climate change.</p> <p>Will reintroduce the Climate Change Accountability Act with GHG national emissions target of 118Mt (80% below 1990 levels) by 2050 and interim targets for 2015-2045.</p> <p>Will work on an integrated continental cap-and-trade system that would create a level playing field for North American businesses.</p> <p>Would develop cumulative impact assessments and environmental regulations to protect fisheries and shared water-ways.</p> <p>Will support R&D and commercialization of green technology solutions.</p> <p>Will develop cumulative impact assessments and environmental regulations to protect fisheries and trans-boundary waters and science-based monitoring and enforcement in oil sands.</p> <p>Will introduce programs to support adaption to the effects of climate change.</p>
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SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & LABOUR/WORK FORCE POLICY					
Industrial Relations	<p>The government must not prejudice the collective bargaining process by limiting the ability to employ replacement workers in labour disputes.</p>	<p>Will table new anti-scab/ replacement worker legislation that takes also takes teleworking into account.</p> <p>Will advocate amending the Canada Labour Code so that parents and</p>	<p>Will provide enhanced EI benefits to parents of murdered or missing children, and parents of gravely ill children. Funding for this measure will come from general revenue, not EI premiums. (\$60M/2012-13).</p>	<p>Will “work with interested parties in order to explore available options for ameliorating labour relations in Canada and making them as harmonious as possible.”</p>	<p>Will re-introduce a federal minimum wage.</p> <p>Believe that “full rights to organize and bargain collectively are the best way to ensure a balanced and mutually</p>

		<p>spouses of victims of crime employed by federally-regulated companies will be treated the same as those under Quebec's jurisdiction.</p> <p>Advocates amending the Canada Labour Code to permit parents whose children have been the victims of crime, have committed suicide or who are missing to take a leave of absence of up to 52 weeks and have their jobs protected.</p> <p>Would also propose additional amendments to the Canada Labour code to: subject federally-regulated employers in Quebec to Bill 101 (<i>Charte de la langue française</i>); and-entitle all female employees of federally-regulated employers in Quebec to be reassigned when their work poses a threat to their health, that of their unborn children or children they are breast-feeding.</p>		<p>Will "reverse the Harper government's decision to reduce pay equity to an ordinary labour relations and collective bargaining issue in federally regulated industries. We would instead create an effective, proactive system for implementing and monitoring pay equity at the federal level in which equality is again recognized as a human right."</p>	<p>beneficial relationship between employers and workers in all industries."</p>
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Workforce Participation	<p>Take additional measures to improve the educational success and work force participation of Aboriginal Canadians and other underrepresented workers, including seniors and the disabled.</p> <p>Review the funding formula for education in First Nations communities with the goal of parity with each provincial funding model where the First Nations schools in such province are expected to adhere to the provincial curricula.</p> <p>Ensure that any revised funding model for First Nations education is comprehensive and equitable in its construction and transparent</p> <p>Recognize the need for First Nations to keep pace with new implementation funding and education initiatives in the</p>	<p>Will advocate a legislated (permanent) income support program for older works.</p> <p>Will advocate changing the tax and regulatory regimes to make phased retirement more attractive.</p> <p>Will seek improvements to First Nations education funding so, at minimum, it keeps pace with population growth.</p>	<p>Will extend the Targeted Incentive for Older Workers.</p> <p>Will prohibit federally-regulated employers from imposing a mandatory retirement age.</p> <p>Will expand adult basic education programming in the territories, to "help increase education and employment levels among Aboriginals in the North."</p>	<p>Have committed \$200M in the first two years of its mandate to "lift" the 2% annual cap in increases to funding for Aboriginal post-secondary education funding, and \$300M in year two directed to K-12 Aboriginal education.</p> <p>Commitment to improving administration First Nations education including the creation of the Office of the First Nations Auditor General.</p> <p>Will re-establish funding of the First Nations University.</p> <p>Will establish a Canada Métis Scholarship and \$5M annual investment in Métis education.</p> <p>Promotion of digital life skills and</p>	<p>Will remove the 2% funding cap on Aboriginal post-secondary funding.</p> <p>Will invest an additional \$1B/year over the next four years in Aboriginal education.</p>

	<p>provinces.</p> <p>Ensure the laws and regulations governing the relationships between federally-regulated employers and their employees are flexible enough to protect their respective rights while allowing these companies to serve Canadians safely and effectively.</p>			<p>training, in particular for older Canadians and lower income families.</p>	
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Immigration & Foreign Credential Recognition	<p>Ensure that applications are processed within 6- 12 months.</p> <p>Give priority to applicants who possess skills in short supply in Canada.</p> <p>Allocate the necessary resources in offices abroad to expedite the processing of immigration applications, ensuring quality assurance in decision-making.</p> <p>Work with the provinces/territories to develop national accreditation standards to evaluate foreign credentials, professional and trade qualifications, and certification in regulated and non-regulated occupations.</p> <p>Be transparent and uniform about what is required to practice in Canada.</p> <p>Better coordinate with other levels of government settlement and integration services, focusing attention on employment-related language training, internships, mentoring and other labour market access supports.</p>	<p>Wants the family reunification stream of immigration policy where it concerns Quebec to fall completely under the government of Quebec.</p>	<p>Will facilitate the recognition of foreign credentials by extending loans for recent immigrants to help pay for skills training and accreditation.</p>	<p>Will increase federal investment to improve and expand language skills training programs, ramping up to an increase of \$100 million annually within four years.</p> <p>Will make fixing the immigration and refugee determination processes a top priority, including waiting times and the ease and efficiency of procedures.</p>	<p>Will bring forward measures to accelerate and streamline the recognition of foreign credentials, overseas degrees and previous employment experience in conjunction with provinces and licensing authorities.</p>
Policy Statement	The Canadian Chamber of Commerce	Bloc Québécois	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal Party of Canada	New Democratic Party
Education & Training	<p>A cooperative strategy of investment in education, ensuring money is spent effectively in providing high quality programs accessible to the broad population.</p>		<p>Will increase skills training opportunities for students by: extending support for the Canada Youth Business Foundation; enhancing the Canada Student Loans Program for part-time students;</p>	<p>Will implement a “Canadian Learning Passport” that will offer \$4000 tax-free over four years to every high school student who goes on to pursue post-secondary studies. Students from low-income families</p>	<p>Will introduce a transfer of \$800 million to the provinces/territories to lower tuition fees. Will increase the funding in the Canada Student Grants Program by \$200 million/year, targeting accessibility for Aboriginal, disabled and low-income</p>

	<p>Continue working with the participating provinces/territories to develop harmonized student loan programs to further streamline and simplify the process.</p> <p>Target grants to those from low-income families.</p> <p>Review student loan limits annually to ensure that they reflect the actual financial needs of students.</p> <p>Encourage the creation of additional co-op programs at post-secondary institutions.</p> <p>Enhance internship Opportunities.</p> <p>Continue working with the private sector to support/ promote apprenticeship opportunities.</p>		<p>doubling the work exemption for Canada Student Loans; establishing 30 Industrial Research Chairs at colleges and Polytechnics; and supporting research partnerships between college and university researchers and students through Canada's research-granting councils.</p>	<p>will get \$6,000.</p>	<p>students. Will raise the education tax credit from \$4,800 to \$5,760/ year.</p>
Policy Statement	The Canadian Chamber of Commerce	Bloc Québécois	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal Party of Canada	New Democratic Party
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE					
National Transportation Strategy	<p>Develop and implement an objective-based National Transportation Strategy that: embodies a North American vision; contains a multimodal transportation infrastructure investment strategy; is built on a competitive regulatory and fiscal environment; and is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable.</p>			<p>Will create a Canadian Transportation and Infrastructure Strategy that targets long term economic benefits. Investments supporting economic growth and trade will be priorities such as major roads and highways</p> <p>High-speed rail is an infrastructure investment priority when coordinated with similar initiatives in the U.S.</p>	<p>Will develop a Canadian Infrastructure Plan.</p> <p>Will create a National Public Transit Strategy.</p>
Policy Statement	The Canadian Chamber of Commerce	Bloc Québécois	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal Party of Canada	New Democratic Party
Regulatory & Fiscal Environment	<p>Ensure that all modes of transportation compete on a level playing field, and that the taxation and regulatory framework enables Canada's transportation sector to compete with</p>			<p>Stated their Canadian Transportation and Infrastructure Strategy will bring clarity and coherence to the federal role in infrastructure.</p>	<p>Will adopt a Made-In-Canada approach to federal procurement policies. This would apply to investments in public transit, infrastructure and other areas.</p>

	international carriers.				Will encourage transit use by providing tax exemptions for workplace-based transit passes. Will maintain the Gateways and Border Crossings Fund.
Policy Statement	The Canadian Chamber of Commerce	Bloc Québécois	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal Party of Canada	New Democratic Party
Transportation Infrastructure	<p>Actively and intensively promote all of Canada's gateways.</p> <p>Develop a more efficient process for project development.</p> <p>Pursue public-private partnerships, wherever feasible, to maximize efficiency in delivering services/programs and developing costly infrastructure.</p> <p>Work with the provinces and municipalities to develop urban and rural transit plans</p>	<p>Federal funding for a harbor repair program and icebreaker fees on the St. Lawrence.</p> <p>Would enhance regional airports and remove regional airport taxes.</p> <p>Greater federal infrastructure spending. Investment in railroads Support for the marine mode of transportation.</p> <p>Support for a multi-modal transportation network</p> <p>Encourage the development of the St, Lawrence Seaway as an important component of a multi-modal transportation system.</p> <p>Supports the construction of a high speed rail corridor between Quebec and Windsor and in cooperation with the U.S.</p>	<p>Complete the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor initiative.</p> <p>Develop a strategy for the Ontario-Quebec Continental Gateway and Trade Corridor Strategy.</p> <p>Implement the Atlantic Gateway and Trade Corridor Strategy.</p> <p>Will work with provinces, territories, and other stakeholders to develop a long term plan for public infrastructure investment.</p> <p>Created the Public-private Partnership Infrastructure Fund.</p>	<p>Have noted that their infrastructure priorities include: highways and major roads, local and regional rapid transit and commuter rail, municipal infrastructure and high-speed rail.</p> <p>Has acknowledged the importance of Canadian Gateways.</p> <p>End the Public-Private Partnership Infrastructure Fund.</p>	<p>Provide funding for urban public transit with an additional percentage of the existing gas tax.</p> <p>Create a Northern Highways investment fund. Will focus first on the completion of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk link, followed by the Mackenzie Valley Highway.</p> <p>Continue federal support for infrastructure similar to the Building Canada Fund.</p> <p>Will maintain the Gateways and Border Crossings Fund.</p>
Policy Statement	The Canadian Chamber of Commerce	Bloc Québécois	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal Party of Canada	New Democratic Party
Sustainable Transportation Network	<p>Address community impacts and minimize the negative environmental concerns.</p> <p>Develop predictable and clearly defined regulatory policies.</p> <p>Encourage the adoption of green practices that are economically sustainable.</p> <p>Ensure the availability of a skilled</p>	<p>Would offer support for companies that adopt energy-efficient production patterns.</p> <p>Seeks to reduce reliance on carbon intensive fuel sources in transportation.</p> <p>Encourages research and development of green technologies in the transportation sector.</p> <p>Investments in communal</p>	<p>Supports economically viable clean energy projects that will encourage the adoption of renewable fuel sources.</p> <p>Will introduce legislation to make permanent funding for municipal infrastructure through the Gas Tax Fund.</p>	<p>Investments in local and regional transit should help reduce GHG emissions and reduce congestion.</p> <p>Acknowledged the importance of addressing long-term concerns such as international trade competitiveness, regional development, quality of life and GHG reductions.</p>	<p>Will create a National Public Transit Strategy to maintain and expand public transit.</p>

	workforce.	<p>transportation to reduce the production of GHGs</p> <p>Set up labeling requirements for vehicles which provide information on energy efficiency, fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.</p> <p>Encourage the federal use and acquisition of electric cars.</p>			
Policy Statement	The Canadian Chamber of Commerce	Bloc Québécois	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal Party of Canada	New Democratic Party
ENCOURAGING & REWARDING INNOVATION					
Information & Communications Technology	In order to be a destination of choice, Canada must make sufficient investment and dedication to the adoption of information and communications technology.		<p>Will implement a Digital Economy Strategy that will: build world class digital infrastructure; encourage businesses to adopt digital technology; support digital skills development; foster the growth of Canadian companies supplying digital technology to global markets; and create made-in-Canada content across all platforms.</p> <p>Will support collaborative projects between colleges and SMEs to accelerate ICT, promote enrollment in technology and build Canada's digital content with added support for the Canada media fund.</p>	<p>Will make digital technologies a priority.</p> <p>Will oversee 100% coverage of high-speed internet across rural Canada.</p> <p>Will promote digital life skills and training.</p> <p>Will work to improve online services to Canadians and have an open and neutral internet and a fair and effective wholesale regime to allow smaller internet service providers to lease broadband infrastructure at fair prices.</p>	<p>Will apply the proceeds from the advanced wireless spectrum auction to ensure all Canadians will have access to high-quality broadband internet, with major internet carriers to contribute financially to this goal.</p> <p>Will enshrine "net neutrality" in law to end "net throttling" by internet service providers.</p> <p>Will prohibit all forms of usage-based billing (UBB) by internet service providers.</p>
Policy Statement	The Canadian Chamber of Commerce	Bloc Québécois	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal Party of Canada	New Democratic Party
Science Research & Experimental Development (SR&ED)	The SR&ED tax incentive program is critical to the early success of many Canadian companies. The administration of the SR&ED program must be reformed so that tax incentives are delivered in a timely and cost-effective manner	Proposes to refund the SR&ED tax credit on a quarterly basis.	Committed to take action on the R&D Review Panel's report when it is released later this year.	<p>Will introduce a new Innovation and Productivity Tax Credit that will grant Canadian investors a 15% tax credit for investments in start-up companies.</p> <p>Will extend the popular "Flow-through Shares" tax model for start-ups to allow venture capital companies with little revenue to pass</p>	

				<p>tax deductions onto investors, creating incentive to invest in Canadian entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Will create a new “Innovation Gateway” to provide a single window approach to consolidate government support for innovation and entrepreneurship in one place.</p>	
Policy Statement	The Canadian Chamber of Commerce	Bloc Québécois	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal Party of Canada	New Democratic Party
Intellectual Property Rights	<p>Pass updated copyright legislation that meets international best practices and protects IP rights in the digital world.</p> <p>Implement stronger data protection measures in the life sciences sector and give research-based companies the right to appeal adverse court decisions regarding patent challenges.</p> <p>Pass anti-counterfeiting and piracy legislation that will give border officials the ability to search and seize suspected counterfeit goods.</p>	<p>Will work to pass copyright law that applies a reasonable private-copying levy.</p> <p>This copyright law would require internet service providers (ISPs) to pay into a fund to help protect Quebec artists affected by illegal downloading.</p> <p>Will work to implement a right to appeal for pharmaceutical companies regarding patent challenges, as the current system discourages investment.</p> <p>Will work to protect goods from counterfeiting and pirating by implementing a series of measures at the municipal and provincial level.</p>	<p>Will re-introduce and pass the Copyright Modernization Act, to ensure Canada’s copyright law is responsive in a fast changing digital world.</p>	<p>Commit to work with the provinces, territories and research community to bolster innovation in the health and bioscience field to improve the health of Canadians and bring Canadian products to market.</p> <p>Will work to pass copyright legislation that would include a private copying compensation fund model and not any new tax on consumers.</p> <p>Will work with the private sector, post-secondary institutions and other stakeholders to improve Canada’s intellectual property provisions.</p>	<p>Will introduce a bill on copyright reform to ensure that Canada complies with its international treaty obligations, while balancing consumers’ and creators’ rights.</p>