

2011 Policy Priorities

Get plugged in.

Economic and Fiscal Policy

- Securing the recovery and jobs must remain the government's top priority.
- Balance the government's books by 2015 by limiting growth in program spending to an average of about two per cent per year starting in fiscal 2011-12.
- Refrain from hiking taxes, or renegeing on promised corporate tax rate reductions, to return to balanced budgets by 2015.
- Operate Canada's Employment Insurance (EI) program as a true insurance program. Restructure the program to improve equity, provide an incentive for firms to reduce layoffs, encourage hiring, promote labour mobility and ensure program costs do not constrain economic activity. Amend the rate-setting formula with a view of balancing the EI account over the business cycle of up to 10 years to stabilize EI premiums and mitigate the negative effects of economic cycles.
- Design a more efficient tax system that minimizes tax administration and compliance costs.
- Ensure Canada's personal income tax system is conducive to attracting and retaining skilled workers.
- Maintain status quo in the creditor status of pension plans.



Domestic Policy

- Promote the need for a Canadian Sustainable Energy Strategy that comprehensively addresses the many policy issues, challenges and opportunities for energy producers and users.
- Encourage the development of a new greenhouse gas (GHG) regulatory framework, including putting a price on GHG emissions, with achievable objectives.
- Call on the federal government to work with the provinces and territories as well as all stakeholders to develop a Canada-wide water management strategy.

- Work to restore a risk-management approach in the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and reduce its reporting burden.
- Work with the U.S. to ensure a secure border while, at the same time, effectively allocating border resources and reducing border delays.
- Promote the creation of a national strategy to promote transportation efficiency and competitiveness.
- Develop and advocate recommendations to support innovation for SMEs.
- Remove barriers to internal trade and labour mobility.
- Advocate for a services innovation strategy which will promote competition in the services sector and growth into new markets.
- Ensure the immigration system and leveraging domestic labour pools effectively help Canada meet its requirements for skilled workers.
- Bolster the intellectual property rights environment in Canada by enacting effective anti-counterfeit legislation with proper enforcement measures. Get effective copyright legislation passed along with amendments to the *Patent Act* to better protect patents.
- Develop cutting-edge policies on making Canada a world leader in innovation.
- Improve education and labour force outcomes for Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

International Policy

- Advance the Canadian Chamber's U.S. border, energy, regulation and intellectual property agendas.
- Develop an international agreement to mitigate and adapt to climate change that includes all major GHG-emitting countries with realistic and achievable commitments.
- Push for a successful conclusion to an ambitious Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and for the conclusion to the WTO Doha Round negotiations.
- Promote the broadening of trade and investment relations with China, India and other key markets.
- Vigorously defend against protectionism.
- Ensure that trade rules are adhered to and that unfair trade practices are quickly addressed.
- Ensure that Canada provides a predictable investment climate for its companies investing abroad through the negotiation of Foreign Investment Protection and Promotion Agreements (FIPAs).
- Ensure continuation of voluntary approaches to corporate responsibility initiatives.



Note

Note: For specifics on these and other policy directions of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, please do not hesitate to contact us directly. Visit Chamber.ca for our contact information.

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