



# Building a Stronger Canada

Budget 2010

At A Glance

## Position

The 2010 federal budget should focus on maintaining stimulus until the recovery is on a sustainable footing, while focusing on improving Canada's productivity and competitiveness over the long term. The government should implement policies that promote work, saving and investment, encourage entrepreneurship, stimulate technological progress, boost productivity and economic growth, and enhance our long-term competitiveness.

## Key Messages

The government must:

- Implement the announced stimulus measures promptly and effectively. Restoring confidence, growth, and jobs should remain the government's top priority.
- Present Canadians with a viable plan on how it will balance its books and avoid structural deficits. The budget should include significant program spending restraint and a commitment to dedicate surpluses (once balanced budgets are achieved) to repay deficits accumulated since fiscal 2008-09.
- Lay the foundation for sustainable, long-term economic growth by addressing long-standing structural impediments that negatively affect the operation of markets and the capacity of businesses to operate efficiently. This entails removing all internal barriers to trade and mobility, eliminating overlapping regulations, minimizing tax administration and compliance costs, and tackling the issues that impede the full utilization of market access opportunities internationally.

When meeting with their MPs, Canadian Chamber members are encouraged to reiterate the key messages surrounding budget 2010 as well as obtain feedback from their MPs on the following questions:

- To what extent has *Canada's Economic Action Plan* been effective in stimulating activity in your community (and/or industry relevant to your community)?
- What suggestions do you have for improving the effectiveness of the government's stimulus measures or the speed of its delivery?
- What steps should the government take to improve the competitiveness of the Canadian economy and ensure that Canada continues to attract investment and create jobs once the recovery is achieved and the *Economic Action Plan* is wound down?
- Over what time period should the government bring the budget back into balance?