
From: Layton, Jack - M.P. [mailto:Layton.J@parl.gc.ca]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2008 2:58 PM
To: Perrin Beatty
Subject: RE: Chamber of Commerce

Dear Mr. Beatty,

Thank you for your recent letter calling on Party Leaders to unite in their effort to develop an economic stimulus package to bolster economic and consumer confidence.

Let me assure you the NDP has called for urgent action on the economy. Managing the economy is a fundamental obligation. We know we have a responsibility to safeguard the economic security of Canadians, and the time to take action is now. The NDP-Liberal Coalition wants to implement innovative solutions that include job creation and pension protection as well as ensuring credit is extended to small and medium sized businesses.

Economists from all stripes have called for urgent and dramatic stimulus measures to prevent further economic unraveling yet the government has refused to act. Regrettably, Stephen Harper's unprecedented and undemocratic lockout of parliament has cancelled key spending; the use of the prorogation powers before spending estimates have cancelled \$326.7 million in infrastructure spending.

Instead of focusing on the economy, Stephen Harper focused on destroying the opposition. He should have done what Bill Davis used to do and said, *'Give us your best ideas, publicly and privately, and take one of those ideas from each of the parties.'* The easiest thing for the Prime Minister Harper to do is to hold discussions with each of the three parties and ask for their best ideas, then incorporate some of them into a fiscal update but he has completely stalled on the economic crisis planning.

At this crucial moment in our nation's history, the opposition parties have risen to the challenge as we know Canadians expect cooperation in their Parliament and we look forward to working in the coalition with Michael Ignatieff, the new leader of the Liberal Party. While Mr. Harper may have locked the doors of Parliament, it will not prevent the majority coalition from speaking out. Our priority remains giving Canada the stimulus needed to kick-start the economy, create jobs, and boost consumer confidence.

Again, thank you for taking time to registering your expectations from this Parliament.

Sincerely,

Jack Layton, MP (Toronto-Danforth)
Leader, Canada's New Democrats

