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THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA



news@chamber.ca

Chamber President Unveils Six Point challenge for next government – including a five-year fiscal plan

In a speech delivered today at the Economic Club of Toronto, Canadian Chamber of Commerce President Nancy Hughes Anthony challenged each of the national political parties to commit to cutting taxes, paying down the debt while still reforming the health care system and to adopting other economic measures as part of the Chamber's six-point platform for the next federal government.

Central to its platform, the Canadian Chamber is calling for a 3 per cent annual cap on the growth in federal spending, personal income tax cuts for low and middle-income families, further reduction on the effective rate of tax on capital and ongoing debt reduction. Other fiscal policies include Employment Insurance reform; airport rent reductions and the elimination of the *Air Travellers' Security Charge*.

With the Chamber's fiscal plan there will be \$36.4 billion available for tax cuts over the next five years which will still give the government over \$23 billion for new spending and enable the debt to be paid down by about \$20 billion during the same period.

In addition, the Canadian Chamber laid out the following business priorities for the next government:

Health Care Reform: Improve patient access by improving efficiencies; greater accountability through performance benchmarks; increase role for the private sector delivery within the publicly funded system.

International Relations: Continue trade and investment liberalization; resolution of Canada-U.S. trade disputes; fully implement Canada-US. border agenda; deepen Canada-US economic relations; and address North American security needs.

Revenue for Municipalities: Recognize that municipalities need to secure new arrangements to diversify their revenue base and finance their ongoing needs; ensure that the overall tax burden for Canadians does not increase if a portion of the federal gas tax revenues are transferred to municipalities.

Energy / Environment: With climate change, understand the link to energy issues and the need for technology solutions over a long period of time; strategic approach to energy development in Canada.

Innovation and Productivity: Boost investment in education and skills development; implement smart regulations including national securities regulator; use immigration to bring needed skills to Canada and recognize foreign professional qualifications.

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The Voice of Canadian Business – Le porte-parole des entreprises canadiennes

As outlined in the last news@chamber.ca, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce priorities and analysis of the federal parties economic and business policies are available for our members use and dissemination; they can be found at www.chamber.ca. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce will issue updates as warranted during the campaign.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce Busy Supporting the Chamber Network from Coast to Coast

- ***Canada-U.S. Trade Summit, Winnipeg***

Last week Bob Keyes, the Canadian Chamber's Senior Vice-President, International, spoke at an exporters seminar in Winnipeg, as well as the Canada-U.S. Trade Summit, organized by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce. Manitoba sits at the top of a mid-continent trade corridor and there is much potential for trade development. *A copy of Mr. Keyes' presentation will soon be available on the Manitoba Chamber's Web site, www.mbchamber.mb.ca.*

- ***Milton Showcase***

Bob Keyes was the breakfast speaker at the kick-off event for the Milton (Ontario) Chamber of Commerce's ***Showcase Milton***. This is a very successful event that showcases local businesses in the Milton area. Congratulations to the Milton Chamber for their initiative in holding this event. Mr. Keyes outlined the key issues on the Canadian Chamber's policy agenda and business priorities in the current election campaign.

- ***Numerous Provincial Chambers' Annual General Meetings held recently***

These meetings are important opportunities for chambers from across each region to network with each other and they are also important gatherings for the policy-setting schedule of provincial chambers and set the stage for the upcoming Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM in September. Congratulations to all the hosting communities and chambers for jobs well done!

- The ***Alberta Chambers of Commerce***, hosted by the Canmore Kananaskis Chamber of Commerce, was attended by Canadian Chamber of Commerce Chair, Gerard Protti.
- The ***Atlantic Provinces Chamber of Commerce*** met in Montague, Prince Edward Island, and was attended by Michel Barsalou, Vice President, Communications & Member Relations.
- ***British Columbia Chamber of Commerce AGM*** - Nancy Hughes Anthony, Chamber President & CEO, attended BC's provincial AGM held in Salmon Arm.
- ***Manitoba Chambers of Commerce AGM*** was hosted by Brandon Chamber of Commerce and was attended by Michel Barsalou, Vice President, Communications & Member Relations.
- The ***Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce AGM*** was hosted by the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce and attended by Jennifer Hagen, Manager, Chamber Relations.

Forum for International Trade Training (FITT)

Bob Keyes, the Canadian Chamber's Senior Vice-President, International, has started a two-year term as Chair of the Forum for International Trade Training, an organization which develops trade-related curriculums for delivery through community colleges across Canada and internationally. The Canadian Chamber was a founding contributor of FITT and has been closely involved with the organization since it was founded nine years ago.

Also of note, at the FITT Awards dinner, **Jay Aspin**, Export Development Advisor with the ***North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce***, received his designation as a Certified International Trade Professional, having completed the full suite of FITT courses. Congratulations Jay!

WTO Public Symposium

Alex Lofthouse, Senior Policy Analyst with the International Division, of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce attended the World Trade Organization's Public Symposium in Geneva, Switzerland, acting as a rapporteur for Canada on this event. This meeting comes at a critical time in the current Doha Round of trade negotiations as

WTO members seek a way to get discussions back on track and find ways to address the particularly difficult discussions on issues such as agriculture. *For further information, contact Alex Lofthouse, (416) 868-6415, x234, alofthouse@chamber.ca.*

Rocky Networking

This year's Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting, being held in Calgary from September 18th–20th, offers delegates some unique and new opportunities for networking with colleagues from across the country.

A change from years past, this year's AGM will start on Saturday with delegate activities lined up Saturday afternoon and evening. The planning committee has responded to delegate surveys and has added the opportunity to see some of the host region via excursions to Kananaskis Country. Some of the activities planned include golf, horseback riding, fly-fishing or a sightseeing trip to Banff.

These activities are meant to add to the opportunities that delegates have for building relationships with their peers. Those taking part in Saturday afternoon and evening's events must be fully registered delegates or companions for the AGM. There is a nominal charge of \$25. for these activities and participants must pre-register. The registration form is available on the Chamber's Web site at <http://www.chamber.ca/cmslib/general/SatReg.pdf>.

Saturday evening, delegates will have another opportunity to mix and mingle with their fellow delegates at a relaxed and casual barbecue dinner being held at the Kananaskis Guest Ranch. For those chamber executives attending Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada (CCEC) meetings on Saturday, there will be transportation available to Saturday's evening BBQ.

*For AGM information, visit the Chamber's Web site at www.chamber.ca.
Remember – early bird registration ends July 1st – **no exceptions!***

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce would like to thank its AGM sponsors:



Advil, Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Group, Business Development Bank of Canada, CAE Inc., Calgary Airport Authority, Labatt Breweries, Lyreco, MAC Cosmetics, McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Purdy's Chocolates, Syncrude, Xerox Canada