

July 7, 2004



THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA



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### ***Minority Government – A Balancing Act***

In a recent op-ed for the *National Post*, Canadian Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Nancy Hughes Anthony renewed the call for the newly elected Prime Minister Paul Martin to hold to a government spending limit of 3%.

As noted in the piece, the electorate clearly sent a message for greater accountability and responsibility in managing taxpayers' dollars. And while a minority government is a precarious thing to manage, the Chamber calls upon the federal government to remain vigilant over its mandate when it comes to ensuring competitive taxes, reducing debt and promoting discipline and value for money in the use of public funds.

To view the entire op-ed, visit the Chamber's Web site at: <http://www.chamber.ca/main.asp?id=3135> (*in English only*).

### ***Chamber Congratulates Members Named to Alberta's 50 Most Influential People List***

*Alberta Venture* magazine recently issued its list of the *50 Most Influential People* in the province. In addition to Canadian Chamber of Commerce Chair of the Board, Gerry Protti, many of those on the list are members of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and their local chambers. Making the list means that these influence makers are shaping Alberta through a variety of endeavours including business, educational policy, health care, social causes and the arts.

Those members mentioned on the list include:

Clive Beddoe, President, CEO and Executive Chair, WestJet Airlines Ltd.

Dr. Paul Byrne, Chair, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, & President and CEO, Grant MacEwan College

Ross Grieve, President and Chief Executive Officer, PCL Construction Group Ltd.

Jan Fisher, MBA, APR, Executive Director, Red Deer Chamber of Commerce

Lois Mitchell, President, Amherst Consultants Ltd. and board member of The Calgary Chamber of Commerce

Gwyn Morgan, President & CEO, EnCana Corporation

Gerard (Gerry) Protti, Chair, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and Executive Vice-President, Corporate Relations, EnCana Corporation

Ian Reid, President, President, Finning (Canada), and Chair, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Vi Sunohara, Director, Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce, Governor, Grande Prairie Regional College

David Swanson, Chair, Calgary Chamber of Commerce

Don Wilson, President and Chair, Calgary Exhibition and Stampede

Ralph Young, Chair, Organizing Committee Edmonton 2004 Centennial, and President & CEO, Melcor Developments Ltd.

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Congratulations to all of these people for their continuing efforts to create a robust, diverse and vibrant Alberta. To see the complete list and the achievements, to date, of the honourees, visit the magazine's Web site at [www.albertaventure.com](http://www.albertaventure.com).

### ***Canadian American Business Council Awards***

For the 10th year, the Canadian-American Business Council is seeking nominations for their Canadian American Business Achievement Award. The award honours innovative and successful alliances between Canadian and American firms. Further information and the nomination forms can be found at [www.canambusco.org](http://www.canambusco.org). Nominations should be received by July 15, 2004.

### ***e-Commerce to e-Economy: Strategies for the 21st Century***

In late September, a two-day national conference is being hosted in Ottawa by Industry Canada, in cooperation with partners and sponsors, that will bring leaders from business, government and the research community together to discuss and develop a shared strategic vision for Canada's economic future. The conference co-chairs are Nancy Hughes Anthony, President & CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce and David Johnston, President of the University of Waterloo.

The spread of Internet-based technologies throughout society has become the dominant economic reality of the 21st century. The e-economy - the use of information and communication technologies for product and process innovation across all sectors of the economy - has emerged as the primary engine of productivity and growth for the global economy. Successful economic strategies will enhance our capacity to adopt and exploit these technologies to create competitive advantage.

The goals of the conference are to:

- Highlight the importance of the Internet and e-business to productivity, competitiveness and economic growth;
- Assess Canada's progress as an e-economy, its future challenges and opportunities;
- Establish strategic priorities for government, business, and academia.

This conference builds on a series of thematic workshops to review Canada's e-economy strategies and define their next iterations.

For more information on the conference contact Jennifer Kealey, (613) 993-6364, [kealey.jennifer@ic.gc.ca](mailto:kealey.jennifer@ic.gc.ca), or visit the web site: <http://www.e-economy.ca/english/home.htm>

### ***Electronic Commerce***

***SPAM Task Force Online Forum*** - *The Task Force on SPAM*, announced by the Minister of Industry earlier this spring wants to hear your views. Postings to this forum will be monitored and considered in the Task Force's deliberations. They are organized according to the five Task Force Working Groups. Make your views known on this important issue.

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sitt/spamforum/index.jspa?language=eng&OpenDocument&source=Headlines>.

### ***Individuals Charged in Office Supplies Scam***

The Competition Bureau announced on June 29th, that four Toronto-based telemarketing firms and six individuals were found guilty and fined for running a scam to sell photocopier and toner cartridges to Canadian businesses, and business directories and credit card paper supplies to U.S. organizations. In addition to the fine, all the companies and individuals received a 10-year prohibition from selling business directories, credit card paper supplies, photocopier and printer toner cartridges and similar, including telemarketing and produced without customer agreement in writing, or face to face.

Between May 1999 and 2002, the participants in the scam used false and misleading sales techniques to induce organizations to buy the paper and office supply products by convincing them that they had already ordered the products or had a pre-existing relationship with the selling firm.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce had heard that many - especially of our smaller - members were affected by this situation. *Members interested in more information about this particular case can view the news release on the Competition Bureau's Web site at <http://competition.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/incb-bc.nsf/en/ct02862e.html>.*

### ***Cutting through the jargon - Free Pension and Investing Education for your Employees***

For many Canadian workers, their pension plans are their largest assets. But unfortunately, many of us don't understand the impact pension plans, or the investing decisions made with regards to those plans, can have on desired retirement lifestyles. In fact, many workers have a hard time understanding the technical language and jargon used in the pension and investing world.

To help employers provide understandable educational resources to their pension plan members, the ***Investor Education Fund***, a non-profit organization established by the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC), has developed a **free** pension education resource centre on its Web site at [www.investorED.ca](http://www.investorED.ca). Written in understandable language, *Focus On...Pension Decisions* explains various types of pension plans, and the impact of decisions employees must make when they join or leave a plan. It answers many questions including: *How do I save at work? How do I evaluate my plan? What happens if I change jobs? How do I know what choices I have?* In addition, the centre links through to basic investment education to help employees understand investing concepts and products, helping them gain confidence in the investment decisions they make within their Defined Contribution pension plans, or their Group RRSPs.

The Investor Education Fund's sole purpose is to help people make better financial decisions and believes that members of pension plans would benefit from its resources and all Canadian Chamber of Commerce members are encouraged to tell their employees about these resources and invite them to visit [www.investorED.ca](http://www.investorED.ca) for unbiased, understandable resources.

*For more information, contact Terri Williams, President, Investor Education Fund, 416-593-2350.*

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



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