






Canadian Chamber of Commerce Scorecard of Federal Political Parties' Productivity & Prosperity Enhancing Policies

FISCAL POLICIES					
 <small>THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</small> <small>LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA</small>	 <small>Liberal</small>	 <small>Conservative Party of Canada</small>	 <small>NDP</small>	 <small>BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS</small>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Balanced budgets and a cap on growth in program spending at 3%, which = population + inflation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Balanced budgets – introduced act on allocation of unanticipated surpluses.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Balanced budgets.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Balanced budgets but would spend unanticipated surplus on programs not debt pay-down.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Cut federal program spending over 3 years by \$5.7B and transfer to provinces.</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further reduce personal income tax rates across all brackets; priority is for low and middle-income taxpayers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Proposed \$30B in personal & corporate tax relief over 5 yrs.</i> ▪ <i>Reduced lowest personal income (PIT) tax rate from 16% to 15% for '05.</i> ▪ <i>Increased basic personal exemption by \$500 for 2005.</i> ▪ <i>Proposed reducing two middle PIT rates by 1 percentage point within 5yrs.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Reduce GST from 7% to 6% immediately and to 5% within 5 yrs.</i> ▪ <i>Raise seniors' pension income deduction from \$1K to \$2.5K.</i> ▪ <i>Repeal PIT cut to lowest bracket and increase in basic personal exemption after one year.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>No tax hikes.</i> ▪ <i>Support tax relief for low income tax bracket.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Introduce a refundable tax credit for families with children under 18.</i> ▪ <i>Support income tax cut proposals for low & medium taxpayers.</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise the threshold at which the top marginal personal income tax rate applies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Proposed increasing top PIT bracket to \$200K within 5 yrs.</i> 	?	?	?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise small business deduction limit to \$400K. 	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Raise small business deduction limit to \$400K.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>No corporate tax reductions.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Tax holiday equivalent to 50% of income tax to SMEs manufacturing sector in outlying areas.</i> 	

<i>Canadian Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Liberals</i>	<i>Conservatives</i>	<i>NDP</i>	<i>Bloc Québécois</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the general corporate income tax rate to 17% by 2009. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Proposed reducing general corporate income tax rate from 21% to 19% by 2010.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Lower small business tax rate 1 percentage point over 5 yrs.</i> 	?	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eliminate the corporate income surtax. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Eliminate surtax for all corps in '08.</i> 	?	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Apply surtax on oil company profits.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accelerate elimination of taxes on capital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Eliminate federal capital tax as of Jan 1/06.</i> 	?	?	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce debt-to-GDP ratio below 25% by 2013. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Committed to debt-to-GDP ratio of 20% by 2020.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Committed to additional debt pay-down.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>No additional debt pay-down.</i> 	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce airport rents and eliminate Air Travellers' Security Charge. 	?	?	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Urge government to reduce rents and abolish rents for airports with less than 2 M passengers yearly.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reform Canada's Employment Insurance system to increase labour market flexibility. 	?	?	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Introduce a \$3K yearly basic exemption for EI premiums.</i> ▪ <i>Reimburse the EI account for the \$46 B surplus and separate the EI account from the general revenue account.</i> ▪ <i>Make it easier for seasonal workers to get access to EI benefits.</i>
<i>Fiscal Policies Grade</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>

CANADA-U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICIES

<i>Canadian Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Liberals</i>	<i>Conservatives</i>	<i>NDP</i>	<i>Bloc Québécois</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Positive outreach for stronger Canada-U.S. relations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Negative posturing against U.S.</i> 	?	?	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fully implement Canada- U.S. economic/security border agenda including more and better infrastructure and a border contingency plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Security Prosperity Partnership initiative.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Strengthen border security.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>\$250 M over 10 yrs to border infrastructure.</i> 	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concrete plan to resolve Canada-U.S. trade disputes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Standing firm on Canada-U.S. issues such as softwood lumber.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Defending foresters, farmers, and other primary producers against unfounded trade challenges.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Use energy as a lever in trade disputes.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Fix the NAFTA Dispute Resolution process.</i> ▪ <i>Federal government to assume fees incurred by softwood exporters</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment to expanded trade and investment liberalization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Pursue strong rules-based trade liberalization at WTO.</i> ▪ <i>Supported motion on Supply Management at expense of trade liberalization.</i> ▪ <i>Opposed the Taiwan Affairs Act</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Pursue strong, rules-based trade liberalization at the WTO.</i> ▪ <i>Supported motion on Supply Management at expense of trade liberalization.</i> ▪ <i>Unwilling to oppose the Taiwan Affairs Act</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Supported motion on Supply Management at expense of trade liberalization.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Revise trade negotiating position to include rights of workers, individuals and environment.</i> ▪ <i>Introduced House motion on Supply Management at expense of trade liberalization.</i> ▪ <i>Supported the Taiwan Affairs Act</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist Canadian companies in gaining access to markets abroad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Proposal of \$470M to assist Cdn. companies to expand into international markets.</i> ▪ <i>Earmark \$5M a year to support export market promotion of agri-food products.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Seek better market access for Cdn. agricultural and agri-food products.</i> ▪ <i>Opening up new markets in the Americas and Asia-Pacific regions.</i> 	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Protect supply management system.</i>
Canada-U.S. & Int'l. Trade Policies Grade	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

SKILLED AND QUALIFIED WORKFORCE POLICIES

<i>Canadian Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Liberals</i>	<i>Conservatives</i>	<i>NDP</i>	<i>Bloc Québécois</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boost investment in higher education and skills development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>With the provinces, will design and implement Working Income Tax Benefit to encourage low-income Cdns. to enter workforce.</i> ▪ <i>Will provide \$2.1B over 5 yrs to student financial assistance.</i> ▪ <i>Would spend \$600M/ yr. to split the cost of an undergrad degree in both the first and final year of a program. Maximum of \$3K each year.</i> ▪ <i>\$1 B for post-secondary Education Innovation Fund</i> ▪ <i>\$3.5 B for work-training program.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Provide \$500 tax credit for textbooks, tools.</i> ▪ <i>Exempt first \$10K of scholarships & bursaries from taxation.</i> ▪ <i>Improve the Canada Student Loan program, lowering parental contribution rates for middle income families</i> ▪ <i>Create \$1K Apprentice Incentive Grant</i> ▪ <i>Will establish an Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit – introduction of tax credit of 10% of an apprentice’s wages for 2 yrs. to max. of \$2K/apprentice/yr.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Pledged to restore \$4B in post-secondary cuts</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Raise federal transfer on post-secondary education and social programs to Quebec by \$2.75B over 3 years.</i> ▪ <i>\$8K tax credit to young graduates working in outlying areas.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use immigration to bring needed skills to Canada and recognize foreign qualifications and credentials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>\$700 M to clear backlog of immigration applications.</i> ▪ <i>Will cancel immigration landing fee.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Will reduce immigration landing fee 50% immediately and then to reduce as affordable.</i> ▪ <i>Create a Canadian Agency for Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Credentials.</i> 	<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Give Quebec full authority on foreign credentials issue.</i>
<i>Skilled & Qualified Workforce Policies Grade</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>

INNOVATION POLICIES

<i>Canadian Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Liberals</i>	<i>Conservatives</i>	<i>NDP</i>	<i>Bloc Québécois</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce regulatory burden on business by implementing smart regulations including adoption of single securities regulator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Support implementation of “smart regulations initiative”.</i> ▪ <i>Support single securities regulator.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Support implementation of “smart regulations initiative”.</i> 	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Support reduction of paper and regulatory burden on business.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove inter-provincial trade barriers. 	?	?	?	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the commercialization and adoption of R&D. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Initiated Commercialization Task Force.</i> 	?	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Increase spending on industrial R & D.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Position Canada as a world leader in ICT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Provide \$100 M over 5 yrs to extend broadband to rural and remote areas.</i> 	?	?	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accelerate SME e-business adoption. 	?	?	?	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a national transportation infrastructure investment strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Renew the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund and support intro of Pacific Gateway strategy.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Committed to new or rebuilt infrastructure inc. Pacific Gateway strategy.</i> 	?	?
<i>Innovation Policies Grade</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

<i>Canadian Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Liberals</i>	<i>Conservatives</i>	<i>NDP</i>	<i>Bloc Québécois</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop an energy strategy in support of a competitive business environment and that strengthens Canada's market-based approach to energy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Continue to support Kyoto Protocol implementation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Support longer term plans for dealing with climate change.</i> ▪ <i>A new Clean Air Act.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Support Kyoto Protocol implementation and further commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 25% (1990 levels) by 2020.</i> ▪ <i>A comprehensive home retrofit plan.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Want to opt out of federal climate change initiatives with dollars from the federal govt.</i> ▪ <i>Would set higher industry targets for GHG emissions reduction for petroleum sector.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ With climate change, understand the link to energy issues and the need for technology solutions over a longer period of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Establish a National Renewable Fuels Standard with a minimum of 5% mix of renewable fuels by 2010.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Give public transit riders a 16% tax credit for purchase of monthly transit pass.</i> ▪ <i>Require an average of 5% renewable fuel content in Cdn. fuel by 2010.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Accelerate the Gas Tax Transfer to municipalities for use on sustainable transportation initiatives.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Investments in wind and hydro power.</i> ▪ <i>Tax incentives for fuel efficient vehicles and public transit.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Science-based approach to environmental regulation. 	?	?	?	?
<i>Energy & Environment Policies Grade</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>

HEALTH CARE REFORM POLICIES

<i>Canadian Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Liberals</i>	<i>Conservatives</i>	<i>NDP</i>	<i>Bloc Québécois</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve patient access by improving efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Additional \$300M for teaching hospitals to reduce wait times.</i> ▪ <i>Fed.-provincial Health Care Accord (09/04).</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Endorse the 09/04 fed.-prov. Health Care Accord.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>\$1 B national drug plan that would cover 50% of the cost of medically necessary drug costs above \$1500.</i> 	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater accountability through performance benchmarks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>\$50 M for Canada Health Infoway for wait list management.</i> ▪ <i>\$10m to CIHR to set wait time benchmarks</i> ▪ <i>Additional \$75 M to create a Health Care Guarantee Fund.</i> ▪ <i>\$100 M over 5 yrs to produce 1,000 new doctors</i> ▪ <i>\$300 M to reduce cancer care wait times.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Work with the provinces to develop a Patient Wait Times Guarantee.</i> ▪ <i>Wait-reduction targets for priority procedures are established by the end of 2006.</i> ▪ <i>Would provide \$50M/yr to implement a national cancer strategy.</i> ▪ <i>Work to increase the supply of health care professionals.</i> 	?	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased role for private sector service delivery in publicly-funded system. 	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Support of alternative, private delivery of publicly-insured services.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Refuse to permit the dismantling of Canada's single-payer medicare system.</i> ▪ <i>Prohibit the use of federal dollars to medical personnel salaries involved in new, separate profit-making private insurance system covering medically necessary care.</i> 	?
Health Care Policies Grade	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor
Overall Score	1 – good 2 – fair 3 – poor	1 – good 2 – fair 3 – poor	0 – good 1 – fair 5 – poor	0 – good 0 – fair 6 – poor

Legend **Good** = Numerous positive productivity and prosperity enhancing policies for Canada.
Poor = Inadequate productivity and prosperity enhancing policies (and/or policies with a negative economic impact for Canada).

Fair = Limited, and/or some negative, productivity enhancing policies for Canada
? = Information on policies not readily available or unclear.