

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT



The Hon. John McKay, P.C., M.P.
Scarborough-Guildwood

Volume 16 Issue 4

AN ECONOMY IN CRISIS

We're facing a new Conservative deficit.

The Conservatives mismanaged the economy when times were good—they eliminated the surplus and spent beyond their means. Now that times are tough, the cupboard is bare.

The Conservatives' out-of-control spending—the most in Canadian history—and irresponsible tax policy have damaged the federal government's ability to protect Canadians' jobs, savings, and pensions in the face of a crisis.

Even before there was a crisis, Canada's economic growth was the worst in the G7, our productivity growth rate was zero or negative, and government spending had increased by \$40 billion.

105,000 Canadian jobs were lost in the last 60 days, while Stephen Harper failed to act.

Stephen Harper has shown no foresight and no forethought in his handling of the economy.

⇒ In September, he said there wouldn't be a recession in Canada.

⇒ In October, he said he'd never run a deficit.

⇒ In November, his failed economic statement promised a surplus for 2009. Twelve days later, the Bank of Canada announced that we were in recession.

⇒ In December, he admitted that his government would run a deficit of \$20-\$30 billion.

⇒ In January, he said that his deficit would be closer to \$40 billion.

We need real leadership on the present financial crisis.

Governments around the world are grappling with the challenge presented by these times, but the Canadian response has been weak and ineffective. We believe that the Liberal party can play a leadership role in developing real solutions.

We need investment in infrastructure.

Roads, sewers and bridges are in desperate need of repair. Work in these areas would both stimulate our economy in the short term and increase our competitiveness in the long term.

We need hope for the manufacturing sector.

We must help industry to keep jobs in Canada, invest in new machinery, keep energy costs down, and make the transition to a 21st century economy.

We need sound fiscal management.

Canada's public finances must be restored to the strong

position a Liberal government maintained during the recession of the 1990s, after they cleaned up the fiscal mess left by the previous Tory government.

The current government inherited a 12 billion dollar federal surplus and spent it down to an expected deficit of \$40 billion."

*Michael Ignatieff,
Leader of the Official Opposition*

MICHAEL IGNATIEFF - A LEADER FOR OUR TIMES

Michael Ignatieff is an author, journalist, scholar and skilled parliamentarian. He was elected as their MP by the people of Etobicoke-Lakeshore in 2006, re-elected in 2008 and unanimously chosen by his colleagues and a cross-section of men and women across Canada as leader of the Liberals in the House of Commons.

TORONTO ROOTS

Growing up, Michael studied at the University of Toronto, just a short distance from where he and his family still live. After continuing his studies at Oxford and Harvard, he returned to Canada to teach history at UBC in Vancouver. He has also taught at Cambridge, l'école des Haut Études in Paris, and Harvard.

REPRESENTING CANADA ABROAD

He is one of Canada's leading voices on the world stage in the field of human rights, democracy and international affairs. He contributed to the World Economic Forum and served on several international commissions considering the future of NATO, citizenship and minority rights. In 2001, Michael was appointed as a Canadian Commissioner on the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, an effort

to help guide a UN response to crises such as Kosovo, Rwanda and Darfur.

A MANY-FACETED CAREER

His wide-ranging career includes broadcasting, hosting programs on the CBC, TVO and the BBC. He has written 16 books, many in the area of his passionate concern for human rights and freedoms.

ON THE POLITICAL SCENE

Ignatieff has been a member of the Liberal Party for forty years, starting out by knocking on doors for Lester B. Pearson in 1965 and serving as a delegate and National Youth Coordinator for Pierre Trudeau in 1968. The values he learned at the side of such towering figures as Pearson and Trudeau have

"I am proud to call Michael Ignatieff a friend and colleague. Canada is well served when men and women of his stature offer themselves in the governance of our country."

John McKay

followed him through his career, inspiring his writing, teaching and decades-long commitment to public policy.

PREPARED FOR THE CHALLENGES

This is a man whose whole life has prepared him for the great challenges facing Canada today. He brings a world view, a formidable intellect and the ability to build a team of colleagues who will work together, using each one's gifts in all the vital areas of legislation our country needs.

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