

FOUR YEARS OF FRUSTRATION

- ◇ Years when sensible economic policies are not followed.
- ◇ Years of denial of climate change.
- ◇ Years of international embarrassment.
- ◇ Years when announcements are made about new initiatives, but there is no action.
- ◇ Years of divide and conquer.
- ◇ Years of pitting one group of Canadians against another.

THERE IS NO \$100 A MONTH CHILDCARE

One of the programs this government touts as a success is the \$100 per month which is supposed to help provide childcare and/or allow mothers to stay home with their little ones. Anybody who has tried to find childcare in Toronto knows that \$100 is not just inadequate, it is a cover for lack of any action on this pressing need.

NOT ENOUGH TO MATTER

While \$100 a month may buy a few luxuries for a child whose parents can already meet basic needs, it does not do much for a single parent trying to raise a family on one salary. It doesn't have any major effect on working



people who need two wages to maintain a decent standard of living for their children. Money doled out in such small amounts does not really affect most families' budgets in any meaningful way, and could have been used to alleviate genuine hardship if targetted towards the lower-income segment of our population.

PUBLIC HEALTH - TOO LITTLE VACCINE, TOO LATE

Another area of downright incompetence is the recent foul-up in the delivery of H1N1 vaccine. The whole world knew that there would be a need for inoculation as the flu season approached, but supplies were late and excuses were many. There is \$400 million in the Federal budget for public health, but somehow it was not available. And recent opinions that claim that the H1N1 pandemic is not as bad as predicted are no excuse for lack of proper planning.



OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

Of all the problems that will have to be addressed after this government has been replaced, none will take as long or be as difficult as restoring Canada's

international reputation. There was a time when anyone wearing a maple leaf flag on a backpack or lapel was greeted with respect and friendship around the world.

PULLING OUR WEIGHT

Canada was seen as a pillar of the United Nations, an "honest broker" in negotiations and a country that pulled more than its weight in difficult situations. Once we were seen as a leader among nations, a country whose small population did not prevent us from being a strong voice for justice and an example of good government.

News commentators look at our performance on the world scene and see a major change in the way we are viewed. Carol Goar's comment is, "Regrettably, Canada has sidelined itself." Jeffrey Simpson says, "Canada has so little to say." In the Québec press, Denise Bombardier says, "Is Canada a country or a village? Stephen Harper doesn't seem to care about anything that isn't just Canadian". The foreign press echoes these opinions in both Europe and Asia.

This is your country and mine. It is our responsibility to make sure Canada recovers our true self, both at home and abroad, for the sake of generations to come.

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND THE RULE OF LAW

I have been a Member of Parliament for twelve years. For the first several sessions I was proud to be part of an institution that shaped the way the country moved forward, that genuinely cared about social justice and the rule of law.

Our financial choices were based on the needs of the people of Canada, and the prudent use of tax dollars. We recognized that our responsibility was to all Canadians, no matter how they voted, and that our decisions must be based on more than just getting re-elected.

Then a new force came into play, and suddenly the rules changed. Since the Conservative minority government has taken over, everything has been subjected to a simple test. Is it good for the Conservative Party? If so, do it.

There is no consideration for democracy, or the peoples' needs. These are irrelevant to the overriding goal of achieving a majority by whatever means will succeed.

Our country deserves better than this.

John McKay

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