

Re: The Federal Budget

From John Wood, Morinville, AB

To the Prime Minister and Finance Minister

Cc: Brian Storseth, MP; Hon. Greg Thompson

Sent: March 26, 2007

Dear Prime Minister and Minister Flaherty,

Now that Canadians have digested your new budget, and most of the murmuring has died down, I am going to offer my comments. You will find this a long read, necessarily.

First, I am furious that you have gone to Quebec to buy votes with some 56% of the equalization transfer program. Is that really what Canada means to you? That one province, the spoiled brat of Confederation, is considered worth more than half of the total of our national equalization payments? Canadians (I do not include the Quebecois 'Nation') should be outraged that they are degraded to second class citizens in their own country! I know many are, as am I! You should be cited for contempt of Canada!!!

Now, if you are still with me, you virtually excluded us Old Age Pensioners from your budget. We got nothing! We have been getting the shaft for decades, but when you people get to Ottawa, we no longer exist. OK, Seniors with substantial incomes above their OAS pensions may get a very small break when they split their incomes with their spouse. My wife and I split our CPP when we started receiving it in our sixties. We both get the same OAS and GIS. We continue to scrape by on our measly total of \$2,055 per month, so 'splitting' our additional income is of no value to us.

There are far more Seniors in our shoes than those who you think 'splitting income' will benefit. And please tell me how a single pensioner will benefit from anything in your budget. As the real cost of living rises by double digits, your budget has nothing to offer to Seniors, disabled and working poor in light of the criminal gouging by your friendly petroleum industry. It's not only the price of gas at the pumps, it affects every commodity we buy, including our groceries. Do you care?

Your nonsensical and discriminatory 'carrot and stick' approach to reducing vehicle emissions, by rebating taxes to purchasers of so-called environmentally friendly automobiles, and taxing some gas guzzlers but not all, (exempting pickups for rednecks) stinks like the exhaust from your chauffeured limos that idle outside Parliament. With buyers of these new breed of car numbering only a few thousand per year, it will take 20 years or more to have any impact on the total automotive emissions. Meanwhile, the rest of the driving population will be taxed to death to support your rebate program. And that majority will continue to pollute the atmosphere even more than ever before. It is a very poorly thought-out program, probably prompted by the meowing from the leftist Opposition and its base in ... that's right, Quebec.

My next concern is about your finding all kinds of tax dollars to add to the funding and promotion of French language and culture outside of Quebec. I am unaware of any new funds you set aside for the English-speaking citizens of Quebec. Is that because you did not? Or is it because three quarters of the Anglo population fled the province after the language laws made it impossible to work and get an education there? The Franco Bank is alive and well in the rest of Canada. While Canada is NOT A BILINGUAL COUNTRY you continue to pour hundreds of millions of tax dollars into miniscule French organizations, some as small as three or four members, in unilingual English-speaking provinces and municipalities. The plan being to demand and force 'their rights' on the rest of Canada, village by village, town by town, city by city. It's unfortunate indeed that Canadians have no Parliamentarians with either the good sense or the balls to stand up for English-speaking citizens, who pay the bills.

Your budget, as in the past makes 'special interest' of these groups far beyond their representative population. Your funding of their demanded exclusively-French schools, medical facilities, hospitals, recreation facilities, community centres, etc. is completely out of proportion with their percentage of population in those communities. The City of Ottawa is under such attack, if you just look out your window. All of the existing facilities for Ottawa citizens are either now or are becoming officially bilingual. Ontario cities, such as Kingston and Brampton are now under the gun, having been deemed to be 'bilingual' by the

French-controlled Ontario government. The next step in the program is they will be required to support the creation of exclusively-French institutions and organizations with tax money from the majority English-speaking communities.

Is that what you consider to be "Official Bilingualism"? - Bilingualism for everyone, but French-only for the French? Whether or not you acknowledge it, the fact remains - Canada is NOT BILINGUAL!!! The Quebecois 'Nation', the French-speaking people from coast to coast don't want to be bilingual, unless they can be given preference over English-speakers for employment, in both the public and private sector.

Bilingualism is discriminatory. It is an affirmative action program designed to benefit only one minority group in Canada, the French. Bilingualism is the nation's and one of the world's most expensive boondoggles. It has cost the majority English taxpayers in excess of \$780 Billion. It has been and continues to be the most divisive government societal atrocity ever perpetrated by Canadian governments.

I'll finish by stating my demand for a new Canada. I want Parliament to develop a "Protection of Canada Act", that will prevent Quebec or any other province from robbing the national treasury, as has been ongoing for more than forty years.

But before that, I demand that Parliament prepare a national referendum to put before all of Canada coincidentally with the next Quebec referendum. It must put the question of Quebec's separation before the citizens of Canada to decide if Quebec stays or goes, completely. There must be national public debate. We the people have entrusted you, our elected representatives, with the power necessary to run our country for us. But historically, and practically the only democratic means for determining who goes and who stays rests with the people. It is not for Parliamentarians, half of which are not even elected, to make such important decisions.

There is much more to be said about the flaws in your budget, and I have veered off that subject somewhat to my pet peeves. Enough said for now.

Thanks for listening. I would appreciate your comments on my views.

Call Me Canadian!

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