



Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

MP COLIN CARRIE: ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN 2015 DEMONSTRATES COMMITMENT TO FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY

For immediate release

Ottawa, ON April 21, 2015 – Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment welcomes the new federal budget - Economic Action Plan 2015 – and its focus on job creation, economic growth, and keeping taxes low. Economic Action Plan 2015 also returns our Government to a balanced budget with a surplus of \$1.4 billion and a contingency of \$1 billion.

“Under the Conservative Government’s leadership, Canada has created over 1.2 million new jobs since the global recession,” stated Colin Carrie. “Budget 2015 will continue our Government’s focus on creating more jobs and growing the economy in Oshawa, Ontario and across Canada, while also putting more money back in the pockets of Oshawa families.”

Economic Action Plan 2015 includes key measures to support Oshawa families and to support the Ontario economy, including:

- **Cutting Tax for Small Business:** Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to further reduce the small business tax rate down to 9% by 2019. Due to measures taken since we formed government, we have reduced taxes for small businesses by almost 50%.
- **Supporting Families:** Economic Action Plan 2015 benefits 100% of families with children by lowering taxes and increasing benefits. An average family will receive \$6,600 in support per year due to measures our government has introduced.
- **Tax Free Savings Account:** Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to increase the Tax-Free Savings Account annual contribution limit to \$10,000, effective for the 2015 taxation year. There are now 11 million Canadians who have opened accounts to save money for their priorities.
- **Supporting Job-Creating Businesses:** Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to support manufacturing job across Ontario by providing tax relief for manufacturers and funding the new Automotive Supplier Innovation Program. These initiatives will help create jobs and economic growth for Ontario.
- **Public Transit Fund:** This fund will grow to \$1 billion a year to support major public transit projects to reduce gridlock, create jobs, and protect the environment.

- **Supporting Seniors:** Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide more flexibility for seniors by reducing the minimum withdrawal factors for Registered Retirement Income Funds to permit seniors to preserve more of their retirement savings. Economic Action Plan 2015 also proposes to introduce a new, permanent, non-refundable Home Accessibility Tax Credit for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- **National Security:** To ensure that our Armed Forces continue to have what they need to accomplish the dangerous tasks Canadians ask of them, Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes increase National Defence's budget by \$11.8 billion over 10 years. We are also providing new funding to help counter violent extremism and terrorism.

The Province of Ontario will receive record high transfer payments to support health care, education, and social programs. Specifically, Ontario will receive **\$20.4B** in federal transfers this year – an increase of \$9.6B (or **88%**) from under the old Liberal government

"I am very pleased with this budget," stated Colin Carrie. "More money is going back in the pockets of Canadian families. The investment in the Automotive Supplier Innovation Program and the 10-year accelerated capital cost allowance for manufacturers shows that our Government is doing its part to help keep the auto and manufacturing sectors in Canada competitive."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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Initiatives that will Benefit Ontario

Economic Action Plan 2015 delivers results for Ontario:

- ***Supporting Atomic Energy of Canada Limited***
 - Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide up to \$72.3 million in 2015-16, on a cash basis, to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to maintain safe and reliable operations at the Chalk River Laboratories.
- ***Supporting the Ottawa Police Service***
 - Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$10 million over five years, starting in 2015–16, to the City of Ottawa to support policing services in the Nation’s Capital.
- ***Improving Security on Parliament Hill***
 - Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$60.4 million over three years on a cash basis starting in 2015-16 in support of security on Parliament Hill.
- ***Enhancing Courts Security***
 - Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$19.3 million over five years starting in 2015-16 to enhance security measures at Canada’s federal courts and registry offices.
 - Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$7.7 million over five years starting in 2015–16 to enhance physical security and improve IT security at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Supporting Public Transit Major Projects

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide an additional \$750 million over two years, starting in 2017–18, and \$1 billion per year ongoing thereafter for a new and innovative Public Transit Fund – the Government’s largest targeted infrastructure program – to promote public transit infrastructure investment in a manner that is affordable for taxpayers and efficient for public transit users.

Safe and Secure Shipping

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$30.8 million over five years for measures to enhance safety of marine transportation in the Arctic and further enhance marine safety prevention, preparedness and response in waters South of the 60th parallel.

NOTE: Part of this measure provides funding to strengthen marine navigation safety, engagement with local communities, as well as strengthen prevention, preparedness and response capacity in the territories, Northern Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador. Another part of the measure will impact Ontario and Quebec, i.e. the Area Response Planning and scientific research on the behaviour of oil in freshwater (St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes).

Promoting Arts & Culture at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$25 million over five years, beginning in 2016–17, to renew the Harbourfront Centre Funding Program.

Encouraging Investment in Canada's Manufacturing Sector

Improving business tax competitiveness has been a key element of the Government's approach to fostering an environment in which businesses can thrive and compete in the global economy. Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to:

- Provide an accelerated capital cost allowance at a rate of 50 per cent on a declining-balance basis for machinery and equipment used in manufacturing and processing acquired after 2015 and before 2026.

The deferral of tax associated with the new accelerated capital cost allowance is expected to reduce federal taxes for manufacturers in Ontario by \$473 million over the period from 2016-17 to 2019-20.

Fostering Automotive Supplier Innovation

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide up to \$100 million over five years to support product development and technology demonstration by Canadian automotive parts suppliers through the new Automotive Supplier Innovation Program. Of this amount, \$50 million will be reallocated from the Automotive Innovation Fund.

NOTE: The measure is particularly important for Ontario, given the preponderance of automotive suppliers are located in that province.

Providing Support to Provinces to Harmonize Apprenticeship Training

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to extend further support to provinces and territories to facilitate the harmonization of apprenticeship training and certification requirements in targeted Red Seal trades.

Promoting Blue Seal Certification

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$1 million over five years starting in 2015–16 to promote the adoption of the Blue Seal Certification program across Canada.

Fostering Training that Responds to Employer Needs

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide a one-time investment of \$65 million over four years, starting in 2016–17, to better align the curricula of post-secondary institutions with the needs of employers.

Ensuring Training Reflects Labour Market Needs

As announced in Economic Action Plan 2013, the Government is renegotiating the \$1.95 billion per year Labour Market Development Agreements with provinces and territories to reorient training towards labour market demand.

Removing Financial Barriers to Foreign Credential Recognition

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to reallocate up to \$35 million over five years, starting in 2015–16, to make the Foreign Credential Recognition Loans pilot project permanent to support internationally-trained workers in their pursuit of foreign credential recognition.

Labour Market Integration of New Canadians

Economic Action Plan 2015 reaffirms the Government's commitment to the labour market integration of new Canadians by committing to explore ways to respond to the recent report of the Panel on Employment Challenges of New Canadians.

Investments in Federal Infrastructure

The Government is providing \$5.8 billion on a cash basis over six years, starting in 2014–15, to build and renew infrastructure and on-reserve schools across the country.

Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to create a new dedicated infrastructure fund to support the renovation, expansion and improvement of existing community infrastructure in all regions of the country as part of the Canada 150 celebrations.

Promoting Canadian Tourism

Economic Action Plan 2015 announces the Government's intention to support a new initiative led by the Canadian Tourism Commission, in partnership with the tourism industry, to promote Canada to travelers from the United States.

Major Projects Management Office Initiative

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$135 million over five years, starting in 2015-16, to continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of project approvals through the Major Projects Management Office Initiative.

Supporting Consultations and Public Engagement in Federal Environmental Assessment Processes

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$34 million over five years, starting in 2015-16, to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to continue to support consultations related to projects assessed under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

NOTE: Based on the Agency's past experience with project applications under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, most projects will be in the British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec regions.

Unlocking Rare Earth Elements and Chromite Production in Canada

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to allocate \$23 million over five years, starting in 2015-16, from Natural Resources Canada resources to stimulate the technological innovation needed to separate and develop rare earth elements and chromite.

Canada 150

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$210 million over four years starting in 2015–16 to support activities and events to celebrate Canada’s 150th anniversary in 2017.

Increasing Security at Canadian Armed Forces Bases

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$23 million over four years on a cash basis, starting in 2015-16, to upgrade the physical security of Canadian Armed Forces bases.

Protecting Vital Cyber Systems

Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide \$36.4 million over five years, starting in 2015–16, to support the Government’s efforts to ensure Canada’s vital cyber systems remain safe and reliable.