

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS: WORKING CANADIANS DELIVERS MESSAGE TO MANNING CONFERENCE

Ottawa, March 6, 2015 - On Saturday, March 7, 2015 Catherine Swift of Working Canadians will be speaking at the annual Manning Networking Conference at a session entitled "Strengthening Business Confidence". Ms. Swift will emphasize that the best way to rebuild business confidence is to pursue a balanced policy agenda and not one that adheres excessively to the goals of labour unions. "We have seen in Ontario the very damaging impacts of permitting labour unions to effectively dominate the public policy agenda," said Swift. "Business confidence has been seriously eroded as the Ontario government has spent excessively on government worker wages and benefits, sharply raised taxes on middle-class Ontarians, created institutions harmful to business such as the Ontario College of Trades, and compromised the province's fiscal position and the economy in general." Many businesses have left the province and those that remain are very wary of expanding and creating new jobs. Undermining business confidence is a sure route to economic ruin.

In Canada currently, 60% of union members are government employees. Unions in the private sector on the other hand have declined, as they have proven to be unable to adapt to changing technological and economic circumstances. When governments cater excessively to government employee unions, the 80% of Canadians who are employed by the private sector are the losers. And since governments must rely on a healthy private sector to fund their operations, ultimately government itself suffers as we have seen in places such as Greece and Detroit, among others.

"Our experience in Ontario and elsewhere has shown that excessive pandering to unions at the expense of others is not a winning approach for anyone. All political parties should keep this in mind as we lead up to the federal election later this year," Swift said. "Some politicians have already mused about implementing damaging union-friendly policies such as a federal minimum wage, limiting infrastructure contracts to only unionized businesses, and a revival of Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Funds, among others. All of these approaches will damage business confidence at a precarious time for our economy. A more balanced approach would be the most effective way to ensure that our economy gains strength and all Canadians have a reasonable chance at benefitting from the jobs and prosperity created."

To arrange an interview with Catherine Swift, contact info@workingcanadians.ca

A voice to counter excessive union influence over government, our economy and our society.
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