

Working Canadians May 2015 update

May 1, 2015

Thanks for your continuing interest in Working Canadians. We haven't been in touch for a while and as I'm sure you know there's been a lot going on. The federal election campaigning is beginning in earnest with ads hitting the airwaves and the party leaders hitting the road. With a fixed federal election date of October 19, 2015, it makes for a very long campaign. The unions have already confirmed that they will be very active in trying to get rid of the Harper government, [as noted in this story](#).

Although in my view they didn't go far enough, the Harper government has gone further than any previous government in rolling back some of the ridiculous and expensive perks that federal employees enjoy at the expense of the rest of us and the health of the economy. As well, they have promoted Bill C-377 which requires more financial disclosure from unions. Canada remains the only country in the world that permits the imposition of mandatory union dues with no requirement for unions to disclose how they are spent. [We saw a record level of spending by unions in the 2014 Ontario election of over \\$7million – a 50% jump from the 2011 election](#). Bill C-377 is currently in the Senate and it is hoped that it will pass into law before the Senate shuts down for the summer. Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has already said he will repeal C-377 and enact a number of other union-friendly policies, so the risks are very high with the coming federal election.

The Duffy sideshow is ongoing in Ottawa, and although it surely is a disgrace how Duffy and a number of other Senators (both Conservative and Liberal) abused taxpayer dollars, the amounts of money involved are effectively chump change considering the billions that the Ontario government continues to waste. It is interesting how the media continues to pay inordinate attention to gossip proceedings like the Duffy trial, while virtually ignoring the really disastrous policies of governments like Ontario's, which will haunt our economy for decades to come, when the Duffy affair will be a footnote at best.

Speaking of Ontario, our worst fears and then some are being realized as the Wynne government approaches its first year in power. Not only do they continue to spend lavishly and dig a deeper debt hole for current and future generations, they will impose new taxes in the form of a carbon tax (no mention of that in last year's election!) and the disastrous Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP). To add insult to injury, the form of carbon tax they have chosen to impose is a cap-and-trade system, which has proven to be a fiasco in Europe and other places that have implemented it. It will however require the creation of a brand-new costly bureaucracy to administer it, so the government unions must be very pleased about that. [Here is a recent opinion piece I wrote for the Financial Post about several of Ontario's foolish policies and why they will only worsen the province's situation](#).

The recent federal budget contained a number of very positive measures for taxpayers, the best of which is the increase in the limit for Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) contributions to \$10,000 per year, effective immediately. This measure has been wrongly criticized by opposition parties as a sop to the rich, yet it is in fact a very helpful measure for all taxpayers. Currently about half of Canadians have a TFSA, indicating that we realize how valuable this measure is to help ensure the majority of us have a decent retirement. It is anything but a measure only for the rich. Both Trudeau and NDP leader Mulcair are likely to reduce this new limit to the previous one of \$5,500 per year if elected.

Working Canadians is preparing to take an active role in the upcoming federal election to point out to Canadians the pitfalls in pursuing a union-friendly agenda, which both the Liberals and NDP seem to favour at present. We are working on advertising in conventional and social media, as well as other means of educating the Canadian public about the downside to their own fortunes if they elect a government which will pander to union interests, endanger good policies like the new TFSA provisions, introduce costly and unnecessary new programs like universal daycare and possibly pharmacare, endanger our now-balanced federal budget, eliminate legislation like Bill C-377 and who knows what else. One potentially very worrisome issue is that whoever is elected this October, infrastructure is bound to be a big-ticket spending item. Unions will be promoting the concept of only hiring unionized firms for multi-billion dollar government infrastructure projects. This is currently the policy in Ontario, and it is profoundly unfair to non-unionized businesses who should also be able to compete for this work. It is also very bad news for taxpayers, as research shows that the cost of infrastructure projects increases by up to 40% when only unionized businesses are permitted to bid.

Thanks again for your ongoing interest in Working Canadians, and please spread the word about us to your friends, family and colleagues. As we are all volunteers, any support you provide goes directly into the production of materials, ads, etc., to debunk the policies supported by unions and inform Canadians about the negative aspects of union policies on our economy, our personal finances and our society. As Working Canadians is a not-for-profit Canadian organization, if you are a business owner any contributions you make are tax-deductible as a business expense.

Contributions can be made on our [website](http://www.workingcanadians.ca) or mailed to Working Canadians, PO Box 1026, TDC Postal Station, 77 King St. West, Toronto ON M5K 1P2.

If you are not already, please follow us on twitter @WorkingCdns, on Facebook and please check out our website regularly for updates at www.workingcanadians.ca

Stay tuned – the remainder of 2015 is going to be interesting indeed!

Catherine Swift
Working Canadians

