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# Conservative leadership hopeful Michael Chong talks his vision for Canada

Member of Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills and federal Conservative Party leadership hopeful, Michael Chong, spoke with The IFP last month to discuss a number of topics including the Liberals first year in office, working with the incoming Trump administration, election reform, marijuana legalization and other issues facing Canadians today. Here s what he had to say:

#### On the Trudeau government s first year:

I think it's been a pretty weak start. They re a quarter of the way through their mandate and they still don t have a clear economic plan to create jobs and prosperity. If I think back to the first year of the previous government, there were the five priorities and most of them were accomplished in the first year. This government came to office on one set of promises and quickly discarded them and its not clear exactly what their plan is for jobs and growth. To highlight my point, in the last election (the Liberals) promised to rack up no more than \$25 billion in deficits and they threw out that plan right after the election and came forward with a new plan to rack up over \$100 billion in borrowing growth for Canada has been consistently downgraded over the 12 months and unemployment remains stubbornly high at just under seven per cent. So I don t think their plan is working. We ll see in the spring budget, but I think it's been a pretty lackluster year.

## On what the Trudeau government has done right:

I give them kudos for having at least announced a plan to reduce emissions. I don't agree with their approach, but at



Michael Chong Member of Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills

File photo

least they ve moved forward quickly. I don t agree with the plan, as I said, but I think that s an accomplishment they can point to. Like I said, I think it s been a lackluster year, but they are only a quarter of the way through their mandate and have time to turn it around.

#### On election reform and transparency:

On the democratic reform front, they promised a whole new level of transparency and accountability, they promised electoral reform and those promises have been discarded. Not only are they trying to back out of their electoral reform commitment, it s also clear these cash-for-access fundraisers are not meeting the smell test. That s the second area where I think (the Liberals) have fallen down.

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