

Time to set aside narrow partisan interest says Chong

Growing evidence suggests that the U.S. and other major economies are now in recession. Canada has weathered this downturn better than virtually any other industrialized country. However, we are not immune from global developments, and the consensus among private sector economists is that Canada will experience a recession in the coming months.

Canada is facing this period of uncertainty from a position of relative strength, reflecting the soundness of Canadian financial institutions and the strong financial positions of households, corporations and governments.

Our Government's early actions have helped us weather the global economic crisis better than most other economies. Last year our government introduced broad based tax reductions and significant new investments into provincial and municipal infrastructure. These tax reductions and

new infrastructure investments have been and will continue to be a major stabilizing factor for the Canadian economy through the global slowdown.

But more needs to be done. Our immediate priorities are to accelerate these infrastructure projects, help Canadians affected by current economic conditions, and strengthen our financial system. We will provide temporary relief to seniors with RRIFs and to federally regulated private pension plans, both of which have been affected by recent stock market conditions. We will continue to work toward the creation of a single national securities regulator.

We will increase the credit available for Canadian businesses that are affected by the global credit crisis through our two Crown agencies – the Export Development Corporation and the Business Development Bank of Canada. We will consult with the provinces



Mike Chong MP

and Canadians to develop responses to short-term economic issues, while continuing to implement our long-term economic plan.

Finally, we are going to consult with the opposition parties in the House of Commons, to seek their input into developing our government's response to this ongoing economic crisis. We are open to any economic ideas the opposition parties may want to bring forward for the benefit of our country.

We, as Parliamentarians, need to focus on the issues

of concern to Canadians – their jobs, their savings and their investments. In order to do so, our government requires the support of the opposition parties. This means that both the government and the opposition need to set aside partisan approaches and work together in the interests of all Canadians.

As a Canadian, I am disappointed that this has not been the case in Ottawa. Our government misread the opposition's support for our economic agenda. In response, the opposition proposed to replace our government with a coalition government, made up of Liberals, New Democrats and the Bloc Quebecois. This is not in Canada's interests. It is one thing for the members of a separatist party to fully participate in the legislative branch of government, it is entirely another thing to allow them access to the corridors of power in the executive branch. At a time of economic uncertainty, now is not the time for a change in government, and it is never a time for a coalition government that includes a separatist party. It is important that our government remain in power to steer this country through difficult economic times.

Canadians are concerned about their jobs, their savings and their investments. In the coming months, I will continue to work on your behalf and make the case that we, as Parliamentarians, need to set aside our narrow partisan interests and work together in the broader, national interest of all Canadians.

Michael Chong can be reached at chongm@parl.gc.ca or at (866) 878 5556

Fire Report

Faulty alarm

A faulty detector is blamed for a false carbon monoxide detector alarm at 12 Holmesway Place at 8:11 last Tuesday morning. The tenant was advised to buy a new detector.

Careless smoking

A cigarette sparked a small fire in a pillow at 89 Poplar Avenue at 4:14 last Monday afternoon. The resident threw the pillow out of the house, which was ventilated to remove the smoky smell.



GIVE AND YE SHALL RECEIVE: Jim's Repair Shop's generosity paid off as they submitted the winning bid for this beautiful, decorated Christmas tree with gifts. Proceeds went to St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation. Shown here are shop owners Bruce and Jeannette Pinder. - Rebecca Ring Photo

Jim's Repair shop wins tree and gifts

By Rebecca Ring

Bruce Pinder, owner of Jim's Repair Shop in Rockwood, stuck to his guns and made the winning bid for a fully decorated Christmas Tree, complete with gifts. The auction was hosted by radio station CJOY to raise funds for St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation in Guelph. The tree and gifts were valued at \$1400.

Bidding started at \$50 and ended with Mr. Lube and Jim's Repair Shop going toe-to-toe until the latter won it with a final bid of \$1150.

"We thought it was a good idea and a good cause," says Pinder, "So

we thought we'd buy it and give St. Joe's a boost in the arm."

Gifts that came with the tree include tickets for performances at the River Run Centre, a Bola Ball game from CJOY, gift certificates from East Side Mario's, Gino's Transmission, Play It Again Sports, Cherry Hill Entertainment, Charm Diamond Centre, Laser Esthetics, Zesty's Italian Restaurant, Fashion Lighting, UPS, Hampton Inn, a duffel bag from Richler Products and a gift basket from Bath and Body Works.

CJOY's Bill Dawkins, and Dave and Neal's Morning Crew helped set up and decorate the tree.

Chamber says time to stop political tack

The board of directors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, in consultation with local chambers from across Canada, has issued principles responded to the factors fuelling the financial crisis in Canada, such as the access to credit, stock market turbulence and currency fluctuations.

"I fully support these principles, and encourage MPs, in the best interest of Halton Hills and of all Canadians, to focus their efforts in a non-partisan manner towards advancing these principles," says Jamie Schumacker, president of Halton Hills Chamber, a statement to the media.

The Chamber says the current situation is taking a severe toll on the residents of Halton Hills and on all Canadians. In this regard, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and its members find it extremely disconcerting that the discourse since the tabling of the Economic Update has been almost exclusively focused on political gains and posturing.

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