

The prosperity of the country starts with small business

Here they are, the leading job creators year-in and year-out, the lifeblood of communities throughout Canada... There they go, battered by government taxes and regulation, barely surviving this harsh recession.

This sector is essential to Canada's future prosperity. Unfortunately, most governments have yet to understand this. In fact, the federal government and its appointed "Prosperity Group" basically ignored this important group of businesses in the recently released report, *Inventing our Future: An Action Plan for Canada's Prosperity*. While there are some laudable recommendations about expenditure restraint, tax decreases and interprovincial trade barriers, the report blatantly reflects the big business agenda for the 1990's — small businesses were left out of the equation.

This was perhaps no accident. Some of the critical competitiveness issues to small business are also some of the most embarrassing for the federal government: the Goods and Services Tax, cross-border shopping, the underground economy and the crippled tourism sector. None were properly addressed by the Prosperity Group; all are crucial to the prospects for prosperity for small business in particular, and Canadians in general.

One of the report's key recommendations is to create an independent Prosperity Council (it also proposes the creation of a National Quality Institute

MAINSTREAM CANADA

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and a Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development). This is clearly the corporate view of how to run the economy. Often the smaller but important players do not have the time, resources or money that big labour and big business organizations have to participate in such councils.

You also have to ask yourself how the federal government could justify these new committees after it eliminated several other established bodies such as the Economic Council of Canada in last year's budget.

To its credit, the Prosperity Group did speak to Canadians across the country and successfully determined what the problems are in need of fixing. It is in their solutions to these problems that the Group went astray. It remains to be seen which recommendations the federal government will formally adopt. Some are solid and will be backed by a significant number of Canadians; others may never see the light of day. Yet, without addressing the concerns of smaller firms, the Prosperity Group's report leaves out a dynamic member of the Canadian economy.

MVA finds defender in Clements

from MVA on page 14

munity cannot withstand another crippling blow so soon after the GST," she warned.

However, Mr. Clements hammered home the point that while industrial sector taxes may increase, commercial (mostly retail) businesses would see an overall drop.

"It's true that in the commercial area taxes will decrease \$325,000, correct?" he asked Ms Martin.

"Yes," she replied.

"Thank you," said Mr. Clements sharply.

All three Milton regional councillors — Mayor Gord Krantz, Barry Lee and Mr. Clements — supported MVA.

The controversial tax was delayed a year in hopes of finding some sort of compromise. Oakville, which will pay \$4 million more in taxes transferred mostly from Burlington, fiercely opposes MVA, and has an ally in Halton Hills. Burlington and Milton, both net gainers with MVA, support it.

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DATE: Wednesday, January 27, 1993
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers
Halton Regional Centre
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, Ontario
L6J 6E1

All interested persons are invited to attend. The meeting will be held as a Regular Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee which is a Standing Committee of Regional Council. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- present the revised development charge proposals; and
- Committee debate and consideration of the matter.

If approved by the Administration and Finance Committee, final proposals and recommendations will be presented to Council, along with supporting by-laws, on February 3, 1993 (tentative).

Any comments, questions or requests for further information regarding the Public Information Meeting on January 27, 1993 or the development charge proposals, may be directed to Roberto Rossini (ext. 7060) at 825-6000, 853-0501 (Acton), 878-8113 (Georgetown), 639-4540 (Aldershot), 823-6720 (Streetsville), the Regional Municipality of Halton, Finance Department, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario, L6J 6E1. If you wish to appear as a delegation at the Public Information Meeting on January 27, 1993, please call Ms. Pat Crimmins, Deputy Clerk, Ext. 7256, at the same numbers. Those interested in knowing how and when copies of Halton's "Final 1992 Development Charges Study & Policy Proposals" may be obtained, should contact the Finance Department on or after January 13, 1993 regarding availability.

Joan E. Eaglesham
Regional Clerk



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