

**NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

# Tory MPs to push for tax cuts

BY MIKE ADLER  
STAFF WRITER

Tory MPs emerged from a hotel conference room this week to demand that Bank of Canada Governor Gord Thiessen resign.

Thiessen "tipped his hand to the currency traders," which made it easy for them to bet against the Canadian dollar. Conservative Finance Critic Scott Brison charged, at Markham's Embassy Suites Hotel, where the party's entire caucus of MPs met to prepare for parliament's fall session.

The governor's statements, starting a few months ago, that he wouldn't raise interest rates allowed an "open season" on the dollar and made the central bank of Canada "the laughing stock of central banks anywhere in the world," said the MP.

As proof, Brison produced a recent article from The Economist magazine that argues Thiessen's candid statements had left him "playing poker with a hand that everyone can see."

The MP brushed off the bank's decision to hike rates by a full percentage point Thursday as "too little, too late."

Brison said the party is calling on the Liberal government to put tax cuts worth at least \$5 billion into a mini-budget this fall.

Investors will have more confidence in our loonie if Canada's high personal income tax rates were closer to those in the U.S., predicted Markham MP Jim Jones.

"We've seen, over the last several years, that we're losing our best and our brightest (to the U.S.) because of the taxes," he added.

His colleagues in the 19-member caucus, mostly Maritimers, gave Jones credit for bringing their two-day conference to Ontario, where he holds the party's only seat.

"I said that Ontario is the straw that stirs the drink," he joked.

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