

## *WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?*

*Martha Hall Findlay, MP for Willowdale*

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There are times when Canadians are asked, "What do you stand for?" And, "What do we as a country stand for?" This is one of those times. Canada is now suffering from its biggest deficit in Canadian history—we have to make hard choices about where the Canadian government should put its limited resources. This is OUR money, from all of us taxpayers—yet this government keeps borrowing more, for questionable spending. We are facing some very stark choices. I encourage everyone to think about the following issues, to talk about them, and to let me know what you think.

### ***Corporate Tax Cuts for Big Corporations? Or Help for New Canadians to Become Successful?***

Although the Conservative government raised payroll taxes on small and medium enterprises (which create by far the majority of all jobs in Canada), they now want to give large corporations, those that are already successful, a huge, \$6 Billion corporate tax break. Canadian corporate taxes are already very competitive.

Instead, the Conservative government has just cut funding to help new Canadians settle here, of the total cuts across Canada, up to 80% will affect the GTA. This funding has been hugely helpful to a variety of local organizations that help people establish themselves, and to become self-sufficient and contributing members of the community. Are we better to give a gift to the

largest, most profitable corporations, using borrowed money in a deficit, while letting new Canadians struggle to become self-sufficient?

### ***Fighter Jets? Or Families?***

The Conservative government continues to insist on an untendered purchase of 65 stealth attack fighter jets. Jets, whose cost will be at least \$16 billion, and every day we hear that the cost will be even higher. But why? None of these planes would ever have been used in Afghanistan. They can't do Arctic patrols, which are so necessary for our Arctic sovereignty. They are built only for "*stealth attack fighting*". I want our foreign policy to continue in line with Lester Pearson's peacekeeping legacy and our Canadian focus on helping others.

On the other hand, families are struggling with health care, and with the challenges and costs of housing and helping sick and elderly parents and loved ones. Today, 2.7 million Canadians provide care for seniors and it is estimated that by 2017, the number of seniors with chronic conditions requiring home care services will increase **by one-third**. Family caregivers are responsible for 80% of Canada's homecare services, providing over \$9 billion in **unpaid** care each year.

The **Liberal Family Care Plan** will introduce a new **six-month Family Care Employment Insurance Benefit**, so that more Canadians can care for gravely ill family members at home without having to quit their jobs. **The Liberal Family Care Plan** will also offer a **new Family Care Tax Benefit**, modeled on the Child Tax Benefit, to help low- and middle-income family caregivers defray the cost of providing essential care to a family member at home. This will provide hundreds of thousands of families with a tax-free payment worth up to \$1,350 per year to help defray the costs of providing family care.

## ***\$ Billions on US-Style Mega-Prisons? Or Preventing Crime Before It Happens?***

***Crime in Canada, including violent crime, has gone DOWN steadily over the last 25 years.*** We do NOT need to spend billions on American-style mega-prisons. We all believe in law and order, but to ***prevent*** crime from happening in the first place, we must be tough on the ***causes*** of crime: poverty, lack of opportunity, lack of community engagement. ***We need to invest in our families, in education, in our communities—not mega-prisons.***

I look forward to hearing from you on these important issues.

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