

## 2013 – MHF Comment – Economy – The Courage to Compete

### ***Canada can compete for economic prosperity with the best around the world – and win.***

We can put Canada back on the strong fiscal and economic footing we've been losing over the last few years under Stephen Harper.

We can expand our markets for what we produce (natural resources, manufactured goods and services, and brain power).

We can encourage greater investment to produce more of the products and services that people want, in ways that are more efficient and more sustainable.

We can achieve greater efficiency in our government services, to put limited public resources to better use.

We can establish the right priorities for government spending.

Government can work with the private sector to enhance Canada's levels of innovation, productivity, and competitiveness. Canada's prosperity, its economic future, lies in being able to compete on the world stage. We should be embracing the challenges of globalization, not hiding from them. This means gaining access to more markets, particularly the rapidly growing Asian ones; it means encouraging foreign investment in Canada in a responsible way, to help develop our resources (not just what's in the ground, but all the people resources above it, too); it means fostering technological innovations from these efforts at home (including exciting new environmental technologies) that we can, in turn, export; it means having the best economically-focused infrastructure, including full, coast-to-coast-to-coast and everything-in-between high-speed broadband connectivity; it means ensuring that our population is the best-educated, the best-trained, the most capable.

So what is government's role? While it does employ in its own right a lot of people (and provides important services to Canadians), it is business and the private sector as a whole who are the ones that create jobs, make the investments, invent and innovate to create better products and services as well as better ways of making or providing them. The role of government is not to "create" the jobs, but to create the best environment for the private sector to flourish, while ensuring with appropriate regulation respect for the environment, the people involved, and the communities in which those businesses operate.

It's a competitive world out there.

Canada can, with greater cooperation between government and the private sector, compete with the best and win.