

GIVING YOUR FAMILY A BREAK

PRACTICAL FIRST STEPS

Jack Layton
NDP





MY COMMITMENT TO YOU LEADERSHIP YOU CAN TRUST TO GIVE YOUR FAMILY A BREAK

For too long Ottawa has focused on the priorities of the well-connected, not the priorities of your family. Together we're going to fix that.

Today I'm releasing my affordable plan to get Ottawa working for your family - one practical step at a time.

The New Democrat plan is focused on improving your health services, rewarding the job creators, strengthening your pension, and making your life a little more affordable.

These are the priorities I've been fighting for my whole life. And these are my commitments to you in this election.

These commitments are fully costed – right from the first year. We won't wait to lift all seniors out of poverty. We won't wait to start hiring more doctors and nurses. We will act starting now.

I promise you this: the morning after the election, I will get down to work on your practical key priorities. As Prime Minister, I will work with others to get Ottawa working for you. And I will deliver results in the first 100 days. You can hold me to it.

You know where I stand. After May 2, I will deliver for you. And I won't stop until the job's done.



Jack Layton
Leader of Canada's New Democrats

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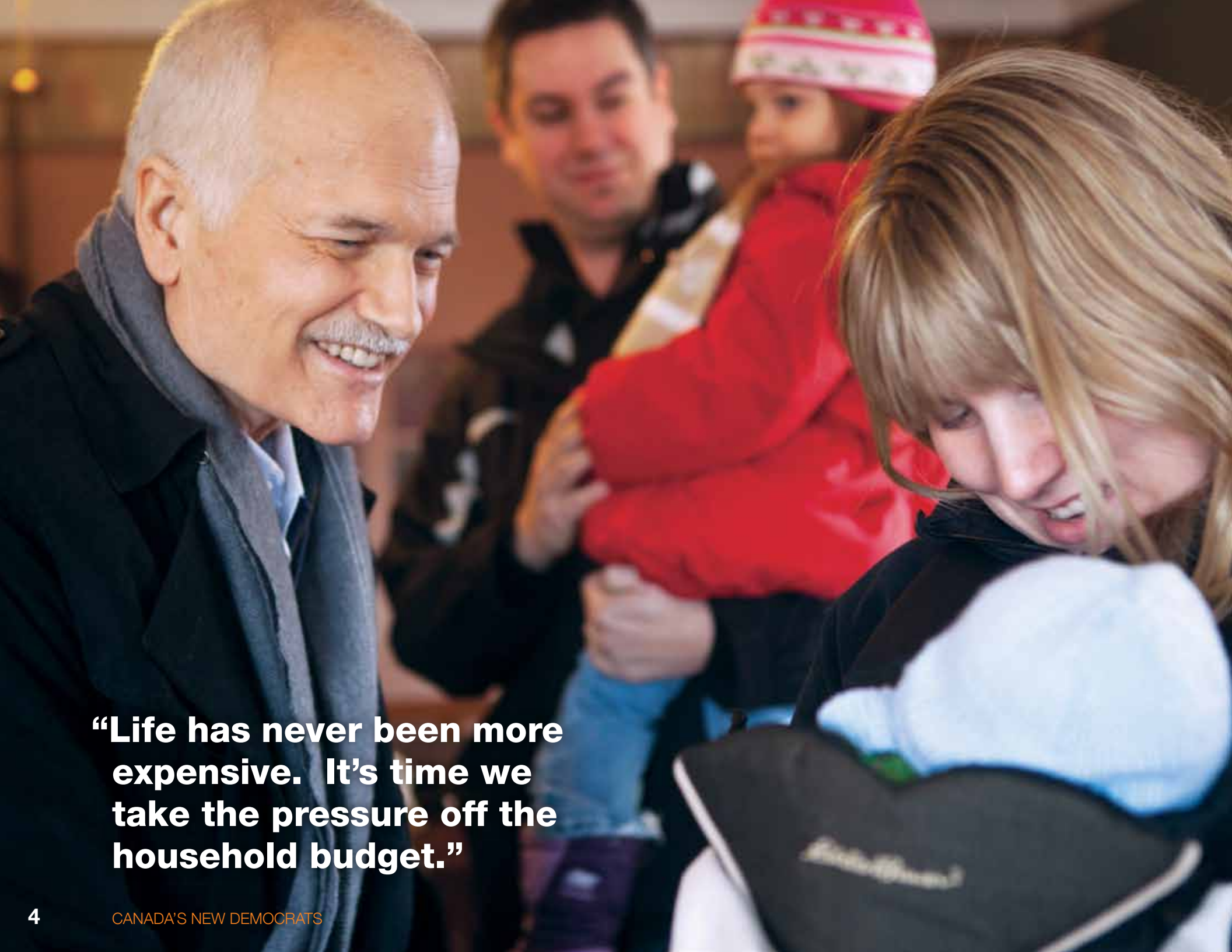
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“Life has never been more expensive. It’s time we take the pressure off the household budget.”

PRACTICAL FIRST STEPS TO GIVE YOUR FAMILY A BREAK

1.1 Strengthening Pensions and Retirement Security

- We will work with the provinces to bring about increases to your Canada/Quebec Pension Plan benefit, with the eventual goal to double the benefits you receive;
- We will work with the provinces to build-in the flexibility for you and your employer to make voluntary contributions to your individual public pension account;
- We will amend federal bankruptcy legislation to move pensioners and long-term disability recipients to the front of the line of creditors when their employers enter court protection or declare bankruptcy;
- We will increase the annual Guaranteed Income Supplement to a sufficient level in the first budget to lift every senior in Canada out of poverty immediately.

1.2 Improving Family and Maternity Leave Benefits

- We will provide a more flexible and generous Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefit to permit family members to take up to six months leave from work to tend to relatives near the end of their lives, up from the current six weeks;
- We will introduce a new Caregiver Benefit, modelled after the Child Tax Benefit, to assist low and middle-income families in tackling the costs of everyday needs while caring for elderly or dependant family members. Eligible family members will include children, spouses, parents and other family members, and will be able to receive up to \$1,500 per year;
- We will provide a more flexible and generous Employment Insurance benefit to permit family members to take leave from work to tend to relatives at home at the end of life;

- We will ensure that new parents who have taken maternity and parental leave are not penalized on Employment Insurance benefits once they return to work.

1.3 Improving Access to Child Care and Post-Secondary Education

- We will work with the provinces and territories to establish and fund a Canada-wide child care and early learning program, enshrined in law, with the following goals:
 - The creation of 25,000 new child care spaces per year for the next four years;
 - Improvements to community infrastructure to support the growth of child care spaces;
 - The creation of integrated, community-based, child-centred early learning and education centres that provide parents with a “one-stop shop” for family services.
- We will make post-secondary education more affordable by directly attacking skyrocketing tuition costs with a designated \$800 million transfer to the provinces and territories to lower tuition fees, as per the NDP’s *Post Secondary Education Act*;
- We will increase the funding in the Canada Student Grants Program by \$200 million a year, targeting accessibility for Aboriginal, disabled and low-income students, in particular;
- We will raise the education tax credit from \$4,800 per year to \$5,760 per year to help with increasing education costs.

1.4 Delivering Affordable Housing to Canadians

- We will enact the NDP’s legislation to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians;

- We will restore funding for the homeowners Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), and the Affordable Housing Initiative to increase the supply of affordable housing, in partnership with the provinces and territories;
- We will provide significant new funding for affordable and social housing.

1.5 Lowering Household Costs on Energy Bills and Renovations

- We will introduce a home heating federal sales tax rebate to give your household budget a break;
- We will introduce a permanent *Eco-energy* retrofit program to cut your home heating bills, reduce greenhouse gases and create jobs;
- We will provide an inter-generational *Home Retrofit Program* to help families retrofit their homes to accommodate senior family members.

1.6 Cracking Down on Excessive Credit Card Rates and Bank Card Fees

- We will ensure Canadians have access to credit cards with interest rates no higher than 5 per cent above prime;
- We will give federal financial regulators new powers to identify and ban excessive interest rates on credit cards, payday loans, store cards and other forms of consumer credit;
- We will oblige lenders to provide clearer, easy-to-understand disclosure of the real costs of credit cards, store cards and payday loans;
- We will end unfair bank and credit card transaction charges for both consumers and small businesses.

1.7 Re-instating the Federal Minimum Wage

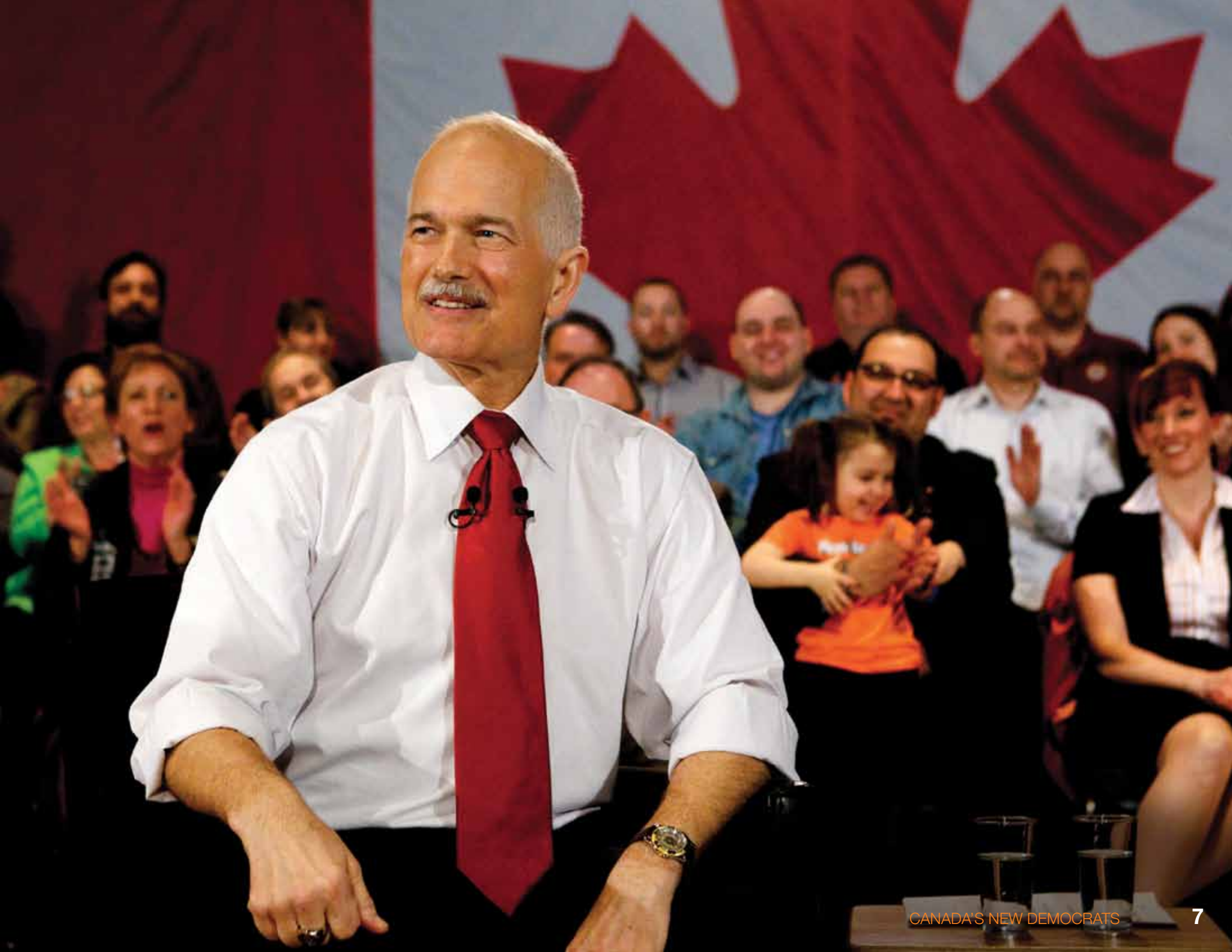
- We will re-introduce the federal minimum wage law, which was scrapped by the Liberal Party of Canada in 1996, to set a national standard of earning for those who make the lowest wages in our workforce.

1.8 Helping Lift Children and Families out of Poverty

- As a practical first step to eliminate child poverty, we will combine existing supports like the *Child Tax Benefit* to create a non-taxable *Child Benefit* and increase the support steadily by up to \$700 per child over the next four years. This will be in addition to the current *Universal Child Care Benefit*;
- We will table legislation that will set goals and targets for poverty reduction in consultation with the provincial, territorial, municipal and Aboriginal governments and with non-governmental organizations.

1.9 Ensuring your Employment Insurance Benefits are There When You Need Them

- We will extend Employment Insurance stimulus measures until unemployment falls to pre-recession levels;
- In practical steps and as finances permit, we will restore the integrity of the Employment Insurance program by amending the Employment Insurance Act to:
 - Eliminate the two-week waiting period;
 - Return the qualifying period to a minimum of 360 hours of work, regardless of the regional rate of unemployment;
 - Raise the rate of benefits to 60 per cent and basing benefits on the best 12 weeks in the qualifying period;
 - And improving the quality and monitoring of training and re-training.





PRACTICAL FIRST STEPS TO REWARD THE JOB CREATORS

2.1 Reducing the Small Business Tax Rate

- We will reduce the small business tax rate from 11 per cent to nine per cent to support a sector of our economy that creates nearly half of all new jobs in Canada.

2.2 Establishing a *Job Creation Tax Credit*

- We will introduce a *Job Creation Tax Credit* that will provide up to \$4,500 per new hire:
 - Employers will receive a one-year rebate on the employer contributions for the Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance premiums for each new employee hired;
 - Companies and organizations that keep a new employee for 12 months or more will be eligible for a retention bonus - a \$1,000 non-refundable tax credit;
 - This initiative will help create 200,000 family-supporting jobs a year.

2.3 Extending Tax Credits for Job-Supporting Investment

- We will extend the *Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance* for eligible machinery and equipment acquired before 2016. This would apply to machinery and equipment for primary use in Canada for the manufacturing or processing of goods for sale or lease;

“Let’s invest in small business and those actually creating jobs here in Canada.”

- We will extend eligibility for the mineral exploration tax for an additional three years beyond March 31, 2012. This will apply to flow-through share agreements entered into on or before March 31, 2015;
- We will establish FedNor as a fully independent regional development agency with a new mandate to invest exclusively in Northern Ontario. We will double the FedNor funding;
- We will give tradespeople and indentured apprentices whose job sites are located at least 80kms away from their ordinary residence a tax deduction for their travel and accommodation costs.

2.4 Ensuring Foreign Investment Delivers Quality Canadian Jobs

- We will strengthen the *Investment Canada Act* by:
 - Reducing the threshold for investments subject to review to \$100 million;
 - Providing explicit, transparent criteria for the “net benefit to Canada” test, with an emphasis on the impact of foreign investment on communities, jobs, pensions and new capital investments;
 - Requiring public hearings that allow for community input into decisions on both the assessment of “net benefit” and conditions to apply to the investment;
 - Ensuring public disclosure and enforcement of all commitments undertaken by potential investors.

2.5 Setting the Corporate Tax Rate at Below the USA’s

- We will keep Canada’s corporate tax rate competitive by ensuring that our combined federal/provincial Corporate Income Tax rate is always below the United States’ federal corporate tax rate.

2.6 Investing in Critical Infrastructure

- We will develop a stable, predictable Canadian infrastructure plan, to include:
 - Funding urban public transit with an additional cent of the existing gas tax;
 - Significant new funding for affordable and social housing;
 - Maintaining the Gateways and Border Crossings Fund;
 - Create a Northern Highways investment fund and begin with completion of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk link, followed by eventual completion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway;
 - Federal Investment in major green energy projects across the country, including a federal investment in the Maritime Link to bring electric power from Lower Churchill to Nova Scotia;
 - Sewer and water treatment;
 - Made-in-Canada federal procurement policy for investments in public transit, infrastructure and other key investments;
 - Continuing current federal infrastructure funding commitments, like those under the *Building Canada Fund*.



**“We’ve got to improve
your family’s health
care starting now.
I won’t stop until the
job’s done.”**

PRACTICAL FIRST STEPS TO IMPROVE YOUR FAMILY’S HEALTH SERVICES

3.1 Strengthening Health Care with a New 10-year Accord

- We will negotiate a new ten-year health accord with the provinces and territories in 2014. The accord will guarantee a continued strong federal contribution – including the 6 per cent escalator – to Canada’s public health care system – in return for a clear, monitored and enforced commitment to respect the principles of the *Canada Health Act* and to the integrity and modernization of health care;
- We will work with provincial and territorial partners to:
 - Promote a clear commitment to the single-payer system;
 - Make progress on primary care;
 - Take appropriate steps to replace fee-for-service delivery;
 - Take first steps to reduce the costs of prescription medicines for Canadians, employers and governments;
 - Extend coverage to out-of-hospital services like home care and long-term care.

3.2 Investing in More Family Doctors and Nurses

- We will work with the provinces and territories to address the shortage of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals by training 1,200 new doctors over the next 10 years, adding 6,000 new training spaces for nurses over six years and substantially increasing the number of training spaces for other health professionals;
- In collaboration with the provinces and territories, we will establish programs aimed at recruiting and supporting low-income, rural and aboriginal medical students.

3.3 Expanding Care for Seniors

- Establish a new designated federal home care transfer to guarantee a basic level of home care services to all Canadians wherever they live;
- Initiate a new designated federal long-term care transfer to begin addressing the shortage of quality care spaces across the country;

- Double the funding for forgivable loans under the *Home Adaptation for Seniors’ Independence Program* (HASIP) to help seniors remain in their own homes;
- We will introduce an *Inter-generational Home Forgivable Loan Program*, modeled on a Manitoba Government initiative, to help up to 200,000 families a year retrofit their homes to create self-contained secondary residences for senior family members. Families will be eligible for a forgivable loan to cover 50 per cent of the costs of a renovation up to a maximum of \$35,000.

3.4 Making Medicines More Affordable

- We will work with the provinces and territories to save Canadians money on the cost of their prescription medications, including, as finances permit:
 - Improved assessment to ensure quality, safety and cost and health effectiveness of prescription drugs;
 - Using bargaining power in pharmaceutical purchases;
 - Cutting administrative costs through public administration;
 - Establishing science-based formularies and clinical guidelines to advance evidence-based practice by physicians;
 - More aggressive price review;
 - Eliminating kickbacks from pharmaceutical companies to pharmacists;
 - Moving towards more publicly funded research and development, driven by public priorities, not commercial profits.

3.5 Keeping Kids Healthy and Safe in Sports

- We will implement a *Children’s Nutrition Initiative* to support and expand provincial and local programs that provide healthy meals to school-children;
- We will enact the NDP’s *National Strategy for Serious Injury Reduction in Amateur Sport Act*.



“A cleaner Canada is within our reach. We owe it to our children to make it happen.”

PRACTICAL FIRST STEPS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1 Adopting the *Climate Change Accountability Act*

- We will re-introduce legislation to ensure that Canada meets the long-term target of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to a level 80 per cent below that of 1990 by the year 2050, and will establish interim targets for the period 2015-2045;
- We will put a price on carbon through a cap-and-trade system, which will establish hard emissions limits for Canada's biggest polluters to ensure companies pay their environmental bills and to create an incentive for emissions reductions;
- We will work closely with the Obama administration in Washington to ensure a coordinated response to climate change, and we will seek at every opportunity to advance an integrated continental cap-and-trade system that ensures a level economic playing field for North American businesses;
- We will establish effective programs to help Canadian communities deal with the unfolding impacts of a warming planet, as well as live up to our international obligations to assist developing countries in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

4.2 Ensuring Canada Becomes a World Leader in Renewable Energy

- We will redirect revenues raised through the auctioning of emissions permits equitably across Canada into investments in green technologies, business and household energy conservation, public transit, support to renewable energy development, and transitioning workers to the green economy;
- We will meet Canada's G-20 commitment to cut subsidies to non-renewable energy and end the federal bias towards non-renewable energy production;
- We will reallocate these subsidies to encourage cleaner energy production. Key priorities include:
 - Working with the provinces and territories, we will reinstate federal financial incentives for clean power, including solar, wind, water, tidal, biomass, and other renewable sources for electricity production and from industrial co-generation, with a focus on supporting community-owned renewable energy facilities;
 - Incentives to spur innovative "made in Canada" green technology solutions, including support for research, development and commercialization;
 - A revolving fund to provide ongoing federal support for home energy efficiency retrofits, to curb energy consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create local jobs while providing Canadians with permanent savings on their home energy bills;
 - Managing transitional costs and re-engineering of energy-dependent industries to help them adapt to a low carbon world, including the development of a *Green Jobs Fund* to support workers through the transition to a clean energy economy;
 - Support for low-income and energy-dependent individuals to ensure that rising energy costs do not exacerbate growing inequality;
 - Training programs for green energy engineers, technicians, construction workers, and maintenance and audit professions.
- We will develop cumulative impact assessments and environmental regulations to protect fishery and trans-boundary waters, and science-based monitoring and enforcement for the oil sand sector;

- We will develop, in consultation and cooperation with provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments, unions, energy providers, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders a comprehensive strategy for our country's long-term energy security in a lower carbon future. Our energy policies will put Canadians first;
- Recognizing that oil and gas will continue to play a prominent role in our energy mix in the medium term, we will discourage bulk exports of our unprocessed resources and encourage value-added, responsible upgrading, refining and petrochemical manufacturing here in Canada to maximize the economic benefits and jobs for Canadians.

4.3 Establishing Green Bonds to Fund Research and Development

- We will create a *Green Bond Fund* to allow Canadians to invest in a sustainable future by supporting solutions like green energy research and development and its commercialization and community-scale renewable projects.

4.4 Strengthening Public Transit for Liveable Cities

- We will enact a *National Public Transit Strategy* in order to maintain and expand public transit across the country, with a clear mechanism for sustainable, predictable and long-term funding;
- We will immediately allocate another cent of the existing gas tax to public transit funding for municipalities;
- We will encourage transit use by providing a tax exemption for employee workplace-based transit passes.

A photograph of a man in a dark suit and light shirt speaking into a microphone. He is standing in front of a large, seated audience. The audience consists of people of various ages and ethnicities, many of whom are wearing small orange pins. Behind the audience is a large Canadian flag. The scene appears to be a formal event or a public gathering.

“Hiring more police officers and keeping our kids out of gangs – that’s your priority and mine.”

PRACTICAL FIRST STEPS FOR LEADERSHIP IN CANADA

5.1 Building a New Relationship with First Nations

- We will build a new partnership on a nation-to-nation basis with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across the country to restore a central element of social justice in Canada and reconcile the hopes of Aboriginal people with those of all Canadians;
- We will establish this new partnership by forging a new relationship with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, fostering economic opportunity and lasting prosperity, ending the discrimination still faced by Aboriginal people in Canada and supporting the process of healing the harms of past injustices. We will begin by:
 - Increasing access to capital for aboriginal business development so that First Nations, Inuit and Métis people can fully participate in the Canadian economy;
 - Improving physical infrastructure such as housing, drinking water facilities, roads and other essential services;
 - Removing the punitive 2 per cent funding cap on Indian and Northern Affairs Canada transfers to aboriginal communities;
 - Addressing the education deficit with a \$1 billion per year investment over the next four years, inspired by Shannen's Dream.

5.2 Ensuring Canada's Arts and Culture Thrive

- We will promote the production and broadcast of Canadian content on Canadian television and in Canadian theatres, and will strongly support Canada's performing arts, cultural institutions, and creators.

5.3 Building Home-grown Film and TV Production

- We will ensure Canadian TV and telecom networks remain Canadian-owned by maintaining effective regulations on foreign ownership;
- We will re-focus the mandate of the CRTC to promote and protect Canadian cultural industries;
- We will provide sustained funding for the Canada Media Fund and Telefilm Canada, enhance federal film incentives and develop a targeted strategy for the promotion of domestic films in Canada;
- We will set license requirements for broadcasters based on clear, binding and enforced performance standards for broadcasters, including increased Canadian drama.

5.4 Investing in our Shared Cultural Heritage

- We will increase public funding for the Canada Council and implement tax averaging for artists and cultural workers;
- We will explore the creation of a new international arts touring fund to replace the now-defunct Trade Routes and PromArt programs;
- We will implement a matching grant for Canadian museums, historic buildings and heritage lighthouses;
- We will introduce tax incentives to ensure the restoration and preservation of historic buildings;
- We will strengthen public broadcasting with long-term stable funding for CBC, Radio-Canada and other public broadcasters, including capacity to deliver superior regional production and internet services;

- We will reform the CRTC and also ensure it better reflects Quebec's cultural and linguistic reality and that of the francophone community;
- We will develop a digital on-line culture service to broaden access to Canadian content.

5.5 Ensuring Your Family's Food is Safe

- We will introduce a Canadian Food Strategy that will combine health goals, environmental goals, food quality objectives, local and organic choices for consumers across the country;
- We will increase food safety by hiring 200 new food inspectors for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency;
- We will strengthen the Canada Food Inspection Agency's capacity to prevent, detect and respond to food borne illness outbreaks and ensure imported foods meet the same environmental and health standards that apply to food produced in Canada;
- We will enact legislation to require proper labeling of food with information on its origin, its nutritional value and whether it is genetically modified or not.

5.6 Protecting the Family Farm

- We will work with provinces to provide easily accessible business risk management programs for farmers that cost less;
- We will review railway freight tariffs that have been gouging Canadian farmers across the country;
- We will work to ensure the sustainability of Canada's agriculture by encouraging young farmers to take up farming and by supporting current farmers with enhanced skill training, mentorship programs and ensuring that arable land is more widely available;
- We will work with provinces to streamline and make more accessible business risk management programs by cutting accounting fees;
- We will support the Canadian Wheat Board as the single desk marketer for Canadian wheat and barley.

5.7 Hiring More Police to Protect Your Community

- We will keep our communities safe from crime by investing in a balanced, effective approach based on prevention, policing, and prosecution;
- We will ensure that communities have the resources they need to invest in crime prevention programs, particularly those targeting youth, by increasing federal support to crime prevention initiatives from \$65 million to \$100 million per year;
- We will work with the provinces, territories, and First Nations communities to provide stable, multi-year funding to eventually put at least 2,500 new police officers on the streets, and keep them there permanently;
- We will give parents, teachers and police more tools to protect our children by making gang recruiting illegal, and establishing a comprehensive *Correctional Anti-Gang Strategy* to ensure that prisons do not serve as "crime schools" to train gang-involved offenders;
- We will create new, stand-alone offences for home invasions and carjackings;
- We will enact, the so-called "Lucky Moose" bill – a law that would allow citizens to detain criminals within "a reasonable amount of time" after a crime is committed;
- We will ensure that appropriate care, treatment, and interventions are available for mentally ill offenders in prison, as recommended by the Correctional Investigator of Canada.

5.8 Recognizing Local Heroes

- We will support a volunteer firefighters' tax credit for those who perform 200 hours a year or more service on behalf of their communities;
- We will establish a Hero's Benefit to recognize the contributions of firefighters and police officers who die in the line of duty. The fund will pay a benefit of \$300,000 to the families of fallen firefighters and officers.

5.9 Fast-Tracking Immigration and Family Reunification

- We will move towards a fair, efficient, transparent and accountable immigration system and end the restrictive immigration measures based on secretive, arbitrary decisions by cabinet ministers;
- Accordingly, we will bring forward measures to:
 - Accelerate and streamline the recognition of foreign credentials, overseas degrees and previous employment experience in conjunction with provinces and licensing authorities;
 - Increase resources to reduce the huge and unacceptable backlogs in processing immigration applications, with an emphasis on speeding up family reunification;
 - Implement the NDP's *Once in a Lifetime Act* to allow Canadians a one-time opportunity to sponsor a relative who is not a member of the family class to come to Canada;
 - Fast-track family class sponsorship from disaster areas;
 - Reinstate federal funding for the settlement of new Canadians cut by Stephen Harper. Funding will assist with literacy, community integration and orientation, including bridging, mentorship, English and French as a second language programs and resource centres;
 - Ensure that tough laws against crooked immigration consultants are enforced;
 - Develop credible, accountable procedures and appeal processes for visitors seeking visas to enter Canada for important family events.

5.10 Strengthening Canada's Official Languages

- We will protect and foster Canadians' right to live and grow in the official language of their choice;
- We will work with linguistic minorities across Canada to ensure programs and regulations under the *Official Languages Act* meet the real needs of communities;
- We will restore the Court Challenges Program;
- We will ensure that the right of Canadians to have their case heard in the official language of their choice at all levels of

the judiciary includes the Supreme Court, in accord with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

5.11 An Action Plan for the Rights of the Disabled

- We will implement the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD) by:
 - Supporting the development of a *National Action Plan to Implement the CRPD*, including mechanisms for collaboration, monitoring and reporting progress, and strategies for achieving such priorities of the disability community as disability supports, poverty alleviation, labour market participation, and access and inclusion;
 - Holding Parliamentary hearings on the CRPD to hear from the disability community and other key witnesses and creating a high-level panel with representation from national disability organizations to map the way forward;
 - Ending Canada's reservation on Article 12 (equal recognition before the law).

5.12 Moving Forward on Women's Equality

- We will reverse Stephen Harper's attacks on pay equity and immediately implement the recommendations of the 2004 Pay Equity Task Force to establish a pro-active pay equity regime enshrined in law;
- We will work with provinces and territories to expand access to shelter and transition houses to support women fleeing violence;
- We will support a coordinated federal response to violence against Aboriginal women, led by Aboriginal communities, and including the ongoing funding of Aboriginal women's organizations;
- We will improve Employment Insurance qualification criteria to ensure that those receiving parental leave benefits see no change in their eligibility for Employment Insurance benefits;

- We will provide a more flexible and generous *Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefit* to permit family members to take up to six months leave from work to tend to relatives near the end of their lives, up from the current six weeks;
- We will introduce a new *Caregiver Benefit*, modelled after the *Child Tax Benefit*, to assist low and middle-income families in tackling the costs of everyday needs while caring for elderly or dependant family members. Eligible family members will include children, spouses, parents and other family members, and will be able to receive up to \$1500 per year;
- We will make Status of Women Canada a full ministry responsible for advancing women's rights, including a mandate for advocacy and research in line with Canada's international obligations;
- We will support the work of the new UN Women's Agency;
- We will restore funding to women's programs and organizations cut by Stephen Harper, including the Court Challenges Program;
- We will re-affirm women's rights to safe, accessible abortion services.

5.13 Promoting Equality Rights in Canada

- We will ensure that gender identity and gender expression are included as prohibited grounds of discrimination in the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, amend the hate crimes and sentencing provisions of the Criminal Code to ensure we are providing explicit protection for transgender and transsexual Canadians from discrimination in all areas of federal jurisdiction;
- We will support gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-gender and transsexual equality internationally, as per the Montreal and Jakarta Declaration on Human Rights;
- We will work with affected multicultural communities to appropriately redress historical issues arising from governmental actions, including options such as recognition of wrongdoing, official apologies, and compensation.

5.14 Ensuring all Canadians Have Access to Broadband and a Robust Digital Economy

- We will apply the proceeds from the advanced wireless spectrum auction to ensure all Canadians, no matter where they live, will have quality high-speed broadband internet access;
- We will expect the major internet carriers to contribute financially to this goal;
- We will rescind the 2006 Conservative industry-oriented directive to the CRTC and direct the regulator to stand up for the public interest, not just the major telecommunications companies;
- We will enshrine "net neutrality" in law, end price gouging and "net throttling," with clear rules for Internet Service Providers (ISPs), enforced by the CRTC;
- We will prohibit all forms of usage-based billing (UBB) by Internet Service Providers (ISPs);
- We will introduce a bill on copyright reform to ensure that Canada complies with its international treaty obligations, while balancing consumers' and creators' rights.

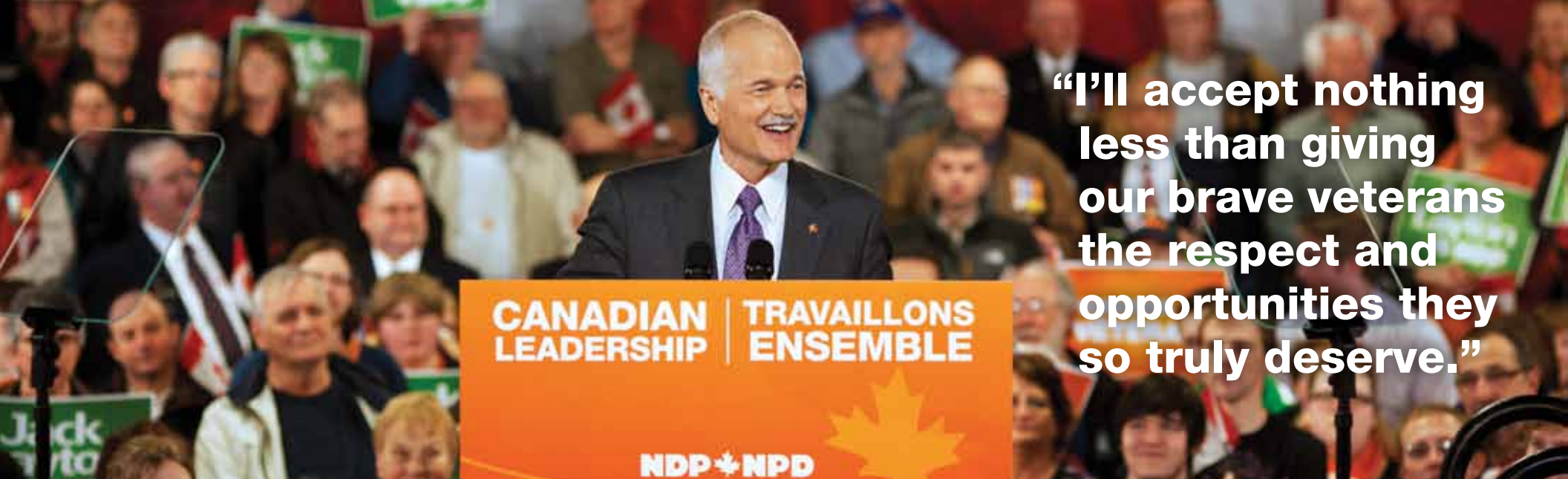
5.15 Restoring the Long-Form Census

- We will restore the long-form census.

5.16 Fair Treatment for the Provinces

- We will compensate Quebec on the same basis as other provinces for having harmonized its sales tax with the federal GST – for a total amount of \$2.2 billion;
- In the case of the HST implementation being democratically rejected in a B.C. referendum, we will not penalize the province by making it repay the \$1.6 billion transfer already invested in health and education.





“I’ll accept nothing less than giving our brave veterans the respect and opportunities they so truly deserve.”

PRACTICAL FIRST STEPS FOR LEADERSHIP ON THE WORLD STAGE

6.1 Leading the World in Response to Climate Change

- We will play a lead role in achieving a new international agreement to avert catastrophic global warming and ensure that Canada meets its climate change obligations.

6.2 Ensuring our Troops are Brought Home from Afghanistan

- We will end Canada’s combat involvement in Afghanistan, and we will bring our troops home. In its place, we will commit to an on-going civilian development program focused on women, youth and children; regional diplomacy; the rule of law and human rights; institution building and humanitarian assistance.

6.3 Increasing the Promotion of Health, Development and Human Rights

- We will get Canada on track to fulfilling our longstanding commitment to increase our Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) budget to 0.7 per cent of GDP with an immediate increase of \$500 million and further increases each year;
- We will remove bureaucratic red tape and enable Canadian pharmaceutical companies to export generic versions of life-saving medicine for people suffering from HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other diseases in the developing world;

- We will implement the recommendations of the 2007 National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility to ensure that Canadian companies abide by international human rights law and environmental standards when operating overseas, and develop and enforce sanctions if they do not;
- We will enact legislation to ensure consistent and non-discriminatory provision of consular services to all Canadians in distress and create an independent ombudsperson's office responsible for monitoring the government's performance and preventing political interference in consular cases;
- And we will work with partners for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine, within a framework of respect for United Nations resolutions and international law. This includes recognition of the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace in viable, independent states with negotiated and agreed-upon borders.

6.4 Charting a New Course for Canada's Defence

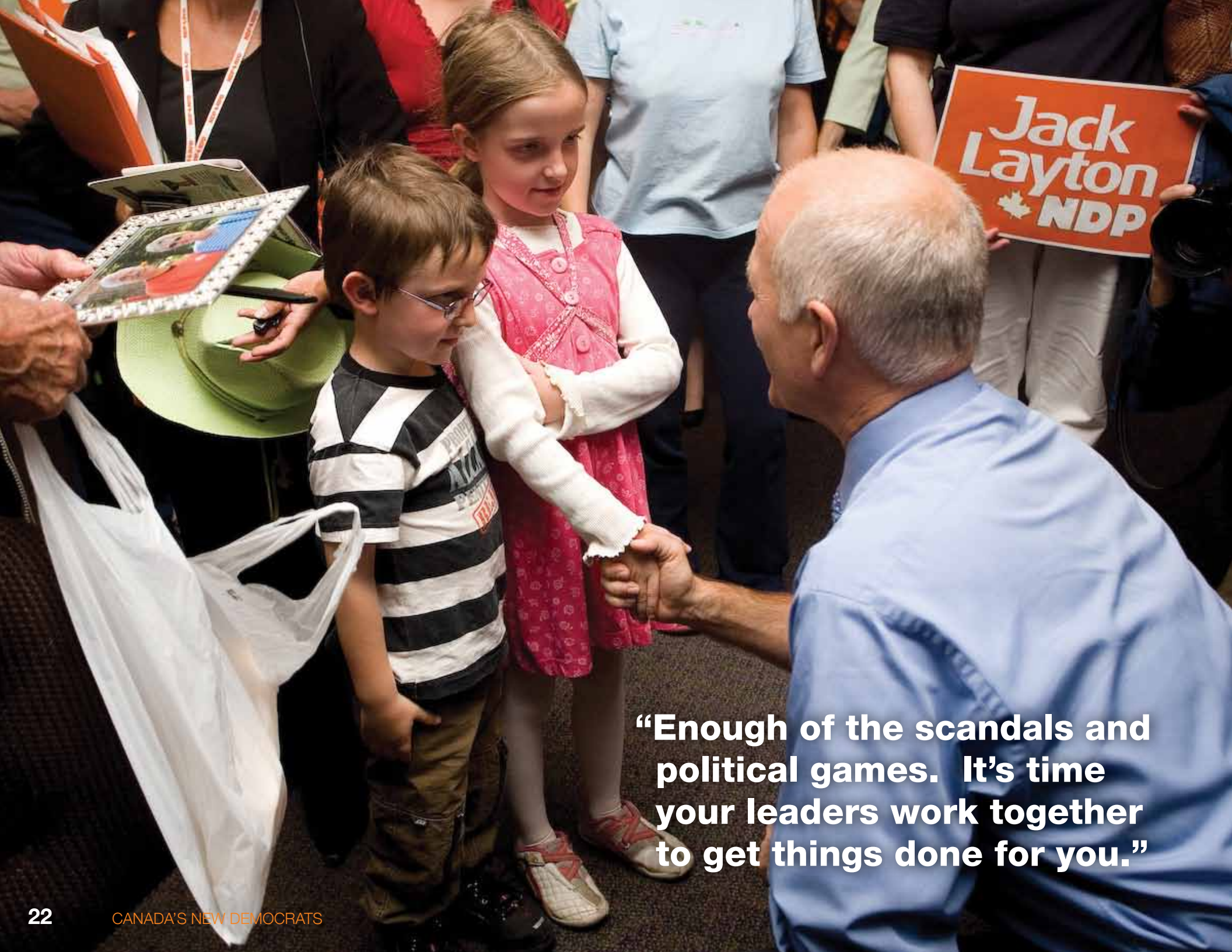
- We will give the men and women of the Canadian Forces, who put their lives on the line every day, the best equipment to do the job with, proper support and benefits;
- We will focus Canada's military on three main priorities: defending Canada; providing support for peacemaking, peace-building and peacekeeping around the world; and assisting people facing natural catastrophes, including floods, earthquakes, forest fires and other emergencies, both at home and abroad;
- We will ensure the Canadian Forces are properly staffed, equipped and trained to effectively address the full range of possible military operations arising from these three priorities;
- We will maintain the current planned levels of Defence spending commitments, and we will equip the Canadian military to resume leadership in United Nations peacekeeping operations, with major new missions reviewed and approved by the House of Commons;
- We will improve search and rescue capability to international

standards within the current budgetary framework;

- We will draft a Defence White Paper, redefining our military's role, its priorities and needs, to be completed within 12 months. During that time, all major defence projects will be reviewed;
- We will implement a fair and open process where competitors can offer industrial deals and benefits. Such an open process ensures Canadians get the best price, the military gets what it needs and Canadian industries get the best spin-offs;
- We will review the proposed F-35 purchase as part of the Defence White Paper;
- Within the existing budget, we will establish an annual fund for government shipbuilding. This would provide stability to the industry and include construction of new ships for the Navy and the Coast Guard.

6.5 Fulfilling Commitments to Honour our Veterans

- We will respect Canada's obligations to our military veterans by:
 - Ending the unfair reduction of pensions for retired and disabled Canadian Forces and RCMP veterans;
 - Stopping the unjust cuts to the *Service Income Security Insurance Plan* (SISIP) for medically released members of the Canadian Forces and former RCMP members. Ending these claw-backs will improve the lives of over 100,000 veterans in Canada;
 - Overhauling the Veterans Review and Appeal Board; appointing its members from military, RCMP and medical personnel, and ensuring that veterans' appeals are fairly reviewed by their peers;
 - Introducing a "Helmets-to-Hardhats" program to help veterans transition to construction and shipbuilding trades;
 - Responding to veterans' organizations, spouses and widows, and others and initiating a public inquiry into toxic chemical defoliation at CFB Gagetown.



“Enough of the scandals and political games. It’s time your leaders work together to get things done for you.”

PRACTICAL FIRST STEPS TO FIX OTTAWA

7.1 Setting a New Tone in Parliament

- We will foster a new, more cooperative approach in Parliament. Stephen Harper refuses to work constructively with other political parties in the House of Commons, preferring confrontation. New Democrats are committed to making Parliament work better. If the mandate we receive justifies it, we will work with other federalist parties, through informal or appropriate stable arrangements.

7.2 Restricting the Prime Minister's Power to Avoid Parliament

- We will introduce a Parliament Act that will prevent the Prime Minister from requesting prorogation of Parliament when a confidence vote is before the House of Commons, and will require a Parliamentary vote before the Prime Minister can seek a lengthy prorogation at other times.

7.3 Making your Vote Count

- We will propose electoral reform to ensure Parliament reflects the political preferences of Canadians. To this end we will propose a new, more democratic voting system that preserves the connection between MPs and their constituents, while ensuring parties are represented in Parliament in better proportion to how Canadians voted. Your vote will always count.
- We will propose the abolition of the Senate. All Canadian provincial legislatures have done this many years ago, abolishing their un-elected second chambers to the benefit of democracy.
- In the meantime, to limit Senate abuses, we will bar failed candidates and party insiders from being appointed to the Senate, and ban senators from fundraising for political parties.

7.4 Building a New Relationship with Civil Society

- We will recognize and respect the vital role, expertise, and necessary independence of civil society organizations, both at home and abroad, including their right to advocate. We will establish a fair, depoliticized, and transparent process for funding civil society organizations.

7.5 Balancing the Federal Budget

- We will maintain Canada's commitment to balance the federal budget within the next 4 years, as per the Department of Finance projections.





✂️ Clip this page out, stick it on your fridge and hold us to the results.

PRACTICAL FIRST STEPS

1

HIRE MORE DOCTORS AND NURSES

We'll start training more doctors and nurses, and give doctors that have left Canada incentives to come back home.

2

STRENGTHEN YOUR PENSION

We'll work with the provinces to double your public pension and offer you more choice over your retirement savings.

3

KICK-START JOB CREATION

We'll give small businesses a 2 percentage points tax cut, and bring in targeted tax credits for companies that hire here in Canada.

4

HELP OUT YOUR FAMILY BUDGET

We'll cap credit card fees at prime+5, take the federal sales tax off home heating, and give consumers control over cell phone bills.

5

FIX OTTAWA FOR GOOD

We'll stop the scandals and commit to work with other parties to get things done for you.

Results you can count on in the first 100 days. That's Jack Layton's commitment to you. 

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