



**VISIONLESS CONSERVATIVE BUDGET: FREEZES, CUTS AND GIMMICKS**

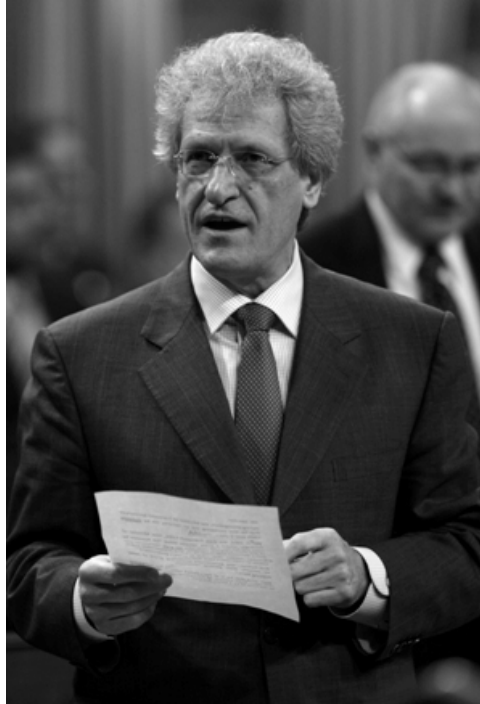
Having gotten Canada into a “fiscal and economic mess,” this year’s Conservative budget now expects Canadians to fend for themselves. Perhaps it is ideological; perhaps incompetence; perhaps part of the culture of deception.

**LACK OF NATIONAL VISION**

Despite the government’s prorogation of Parliament to “recalibrate,” their budget shows a lack of vision and ambition. It is very hard to see how it will make Canada more competitive, more prosperous, or better prepared to create jobs or protect pensions. It is not a budget that looks ahead at the challenges of our times. That is why I voted against it.

**JOBS AND INNOVATION**

On jobs and innovation, the budget comes up very short. The Conservatives are failing on the jobs of today and the jobs of tomorrow. The jobs they claim to create do not make up for the 300,000 we have already lost, or for the rise in unemployment forecasted. In any event, the province already claim their economic measures produced those jobs. The Conservatives imposed a \$13 billion payroll tax hike which may result in 220,000 small business job losses.



**Joe in the House of Commons speaking out against the Conservative’s new Air Tax.**

**BUDGET GIMMICKS**

-\$10 million to encourage volunteerism to help seniors, but nothing to address pension fund losses.

-\$1 million for community war memorials, instead of helping veterans recover from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

-Superficial tax changes to the universal child benefit, nothing of benefit to low-income families and single parents.

**BUDGET CUTS**

-The Conservatives cut \$148 million from Canada’s research councils in the last budget; now they want to take credit for putting back \$32 million this year.

-The cancellation of the EcoEnergy program for renewable power production.

-The Conservatives refused to let the Canada Space agency spend \$160 million in approved spending over the past two years, but want to take credit for releasing \$23 million in this budget.

**BUDGET FREEZES**

-Cancelling \$4.5 billion in planned Overseas Development Assistance.

-Freezing all government operating budgets across the board without any indication for how this will affect the programs and services to Canadians rely on, while continuing to waste taxpayer dollars on government partisan advertising and consultants.

**ABSENT FROM THE CONSERVATIVE BUDGET:**

- Culture;
- Pensions;
- Climate change or clean energy jobs;
- Health care;
- Digital economy; and
- Assisting New Canadians.

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*I would like your feedback*

1. Do you agree with Stephen Harper’s decision to spend \$1.2 billion on the G8/20?  Yes  No
2. Do you agree that Stephen Harper showed poor judgment in managing the G8/20?  Yes  No
3. Whom do you trust to provide you with an effective responsible and progressive government?
  - Joe Volpe and the Liberals
  - Stephen Harper and the Conservatives
  - Jack Layton and the NDP
  - Elizabeth May and the Green Party

**Mail To:**  
The Hon. Joe Volpe, P.C., M.P.  
Room 174 Confederation Bldg.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6