

PRESS RELEASE

**Frank Valeriote, M.P.
Guelph**



For Immediate Release
January 27, 2009

Frank Valeriote reviewing budget with caucus

Frank Valeriote, Member of Parliament, is joining his Liberal colleagues for a careful review of the federal budget.

“The Liberal party has been clear and concise on what we wanted to see in the budget—protection for the most vulnerable Canadians, protection of Canadian jobs and creation of the jobs of tomorrow,” said Valeriote. “This government is long-overdue for action to address the economic crisis. This budget must be considered carefully to determine if it will provide the action necessary to get our economy back on track. Above all else, the Liberal Party will act in the best interests of the country.”

The economic challenges facing Canada were evident long before the government tabled its autumn economic statement and Parliament was prorogued. It is discouraging that this Conservative government has taken so long to signal a willingness to act.

In September, the Prime Minister said if we were going to have a recession, we would have had it by now. In October, he told us there was no recession, but there were “a lot of great buying opportunities emerging as a consequence of all the panic.” In November, Mr. Flaherty presented an economic update setting out a surplus, when now we know that this Conservative government was aware we were headed into a recession and nevertheless mislead us about it.

“Over 100,000 Canadians have lost their jobs in the past two months. It is absolutely unacceptable that this government has wasted time playing political games instead of focusing on the economic crisis,” said Valeriote. “It makes one wonder whether we can believe anything that comes out of this Conservative government.”

“In these tough economic times Liberals will do our best to make Parliament work for the sake of Canadians,” said Valeriote. “However, making Parliament work does not mean that the Prime Minister gets a free ride – he remains accountable to all Canadians and Parliament.”

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