

Securing Canada's economic recovery is a high priority for the government

Our government is focused on what matters to Canadians — supporting job creation and economic growth.

Canada's Economic Action Plan has seen the creation of approximately 650,000 new jobs since July 2009. We are continuing to implement our low-tax plan to help sustain economic growth, support communities, help Canadian families and respect taxpayers.

Indeed, Canada's performance has won praise from around the world. Most recently, the eminent Forbes magazine ranked Canada first in their annual look at The Best Countries for Business. Among the factors that make Canada such a good place to invest, conduct business and create jobs are our high level of personal freedom, relatively low level of taxes and red tape, and the innovation of Canadian businesses and workers.

Canadians should take pride in our country's performance; at the same time, there's still much work to be done. Troubles around the world can affect our fragile economic recovery. This is why it's so important that we stay the course. We've been focused

Lots happening in January

From page 8

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Be a Caledon Senior Centre booster!

December highlights

Dec. 1 — Mayfield Secondary School Senior Christmas Social at noon. All seniors welcome.

Dec. 2 — 6 p.m. Our Caledon Senior Centre Christmas Dinner and Dance. Santa, Elves and Bolton Gentlemen Big Band. Tickets are \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Lots of holly too!

Dec. 7 — Noon luncheon. Celebrate December birthdays and anniversaries — yours too!

Dec. 9 — 7 p.m. Duplicate bridge, euchre and your choice. Every Friday.

Dec. 15 — 11:30 a.m. Christmas party luncheon with Meals on Wheels. The cost is \$15 per person for ham and scalloped potatoes. The James Bolton choir will entertain at 11:30. Following lunch, Liz and Yo "The Girls" Christmas Show will take place at 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 21 — Trip to see Mary Poppins at Princes of Wales theatre. Christmas buffet at the Mandarin and the show.

Just another way to devalue life

Here's a bulletin for you: we're all going to die. But before we do, we get to live. Seems pretty obvious, don't you think?

Too obvious. Which is why the champions of euthanasia call their wretched obsession "the right to die" instead of what they really want, i.e. "the right of doctors to kill you."

Dying, you see, sounds much more civilized than killing. And they are not the same thing. As we've already said, we'll all die, but we won't all be killed.

Yet that is exactly what the euthanasia buffs want to state to condone, and what is behind a current court case in British Columbia, a case that both the provincial and federal governments are, to their credit, fighting against.

Much of the media, naturally, are applauding the notion that Canada should join other nations, such as the Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium (and the state of Oregon) in allowing what is commonly referred to as "death with dignity."

Apparently, dying of natural causes is undignified. Having a doctor stick a needle in you is dignified. Beats me.

The Royal Society of Canada, to its shame, released a one-sided report on the subject from a panel of "experts" — I'm not sure what makes anybody an "expert" in dying, but there you have it — in which they recommended changing the Criminal Code to legalize the counseling, aiding or abetting of so-called "assisted suicide."

They argued — astonishingly — that there is "no evidence" that the old "slippery slope" argument against this practice has proven to be true in the countries where it is legal.

This is a complete and utter falsehood. They should be ashamed of themselves.

One might think that Society's panel of "expert" physicians and ethicists — none of whom offered a dissenting word to be heard — would be aware of studies in Belgium, the first country into the death business, showing that of the 2,000 Belgians killed by euthanasia each year, about one-third of them — or close to 700 people — did not give their consent, despite laws saying they must. Another credible study of Belgian nurses involved in euthanasia found that almost half of them freely admitted to being involved, even when there was no explicit consent given. Worse, they've killed people — and it's been approved by officialdom — who are simply suffering from depression and want to die.

Ottawa Journal

David Tilson
MP Dufferin-Caledon



for more than two years on implementing our Action Plan to continue the recovery and promote economic growth.

The Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan is essential to protect our recovery and support continued job creation. One new step is a temporary hiring credit for small business — a direct, practical measure to encourage the businesses at the heart of our economy to employ more workers. We will also support key areas of Canada's economy with targeted measures to encourage clean energy generation and investments in manufacturing equipment, as well as simplifying customs tariffs. These measures will keep Canada a clean-energy superpower and a place that encourages the investment and trade that drives our economy forward.

The luxury coach leaves the centre at 10:30 a.m., returning at 6 p.m. The cost is \$130 per person.

Dec. 25 — Merry Christmas to all!

Dec. 26 — The centre will be closed until Dec. 30, although the regular cards will go ahead Dec. 17.

Dec. 27 — 1 p.m. regular cards.

Dec. 30 — 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. New Year's celebration luncheon and entertainment. The highlight will be a Rod Stewart impersonator. Don't miss! A great lunch and entertainment with new and old friends.

Dec. 31 — Happy New Year to all, with 2012 promising to be bigger and better.

Future highlights

Jan. 19 — 11:30 a.m. Luncheon and entertainment, with the Smile Theatre presenting Lavender Blue. There will be a sing-along, followed by a roast beef lunch and show. The cost is \$18 per person.

Contact the centre for all details on our events and activities at (905) 951-6114 or e-mail to caledonsenior@rogers.com

Better still, drop in and visit at 7 Rotarian Way. A "cuppa" waits. Remember, "only once a stranger."

And there, dear hearts, is the rub. As a society, we should not head down the road where one life becomes less valuable for those who don't meet a certain standard.

How long will it be if we make it legal before people suffering from serious illnesses or handicaps would be the subject of euthanasia? How long would it be before anxious relatives, tired of waiting for dad and/or mom to pop off, would be agitating for a needle so they can get their hands on the family fortune?

Think that won't happen? Dream on.

True, the "experts" say assisted suicide should be "carefully circumscribed and monitored." Easy to say. But that's not the way these things

actually work in practice. They only have to look at Belgium to understand that.

The so-called "experts" on the panel actually compared assisted suicide with the current practice of discontinuing life support.

Come on. They're not the same thing. Discontinuing life support is a legitimate medical decision based on whether or not continuing can lead to a positive outcome, hardly the same as advocating the active killing of a patient by a doctor, a patient who may live on for months or years.

The case in the B.C. Supreme Court stems from a constitutional challenge against the current law brought by Gloria Taylor, a 63-year-old West Kelowna woman with ALS, one of five plaintiffs in the case.

That's the same terrible disease which sent Sue Rodriguez to court 18 years ago to also fight for the right to be killed.

Public opinion polls on the subject continue to show that a majority of Canadians think assisted suicide shouldn't be illegal and subject to many years in prison.

That's easy to say in the abstract. But what if somebody you loved was given the needle without consent, either because they were old, needed continual care, or were young but suffering from debilitating disease (remember Saskatchewan farmer Robert Latimer, who killed his daughter, without her consent, because she didn't meet his standard of "quality.")

There's no doubt we could — and should — spend more on palliative care. It's also true that pain can be controlled.

What we don't need is yet another way to devalue life. And that's what active killing of the sick is all about.

To support continued economic growth over the long-term, we need to make the right investments now — particularly in education and training — to help Canadians develop the skills that will be demanded by the jobs of tomorrow. Our plan improves federal financial support for students. It also includes loan forgiveness for new doctors and nurses who work in underserved rural and remote areas. We will also extend the Tuition Tax Credit to cover examination fees for workers in the skilled trades, making sure they are prepared for good jobs and providing skills Canada will continue to need.

As part of our plan, we're working to support Canadian families and the communities they live in. We will make

Palgrave Tree Lighting Dec. 3

The spirit of the Holidays is going to arrive in Palgrave Dec. 3.

The community Tree Lighting is going to take place that evening, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Stationlands Park at the corner of Highway 50 and Brawton Drive.

The festivities will include community carol singing with the Palgrave Public School Choir, the lighting of Sarah's Tree at 6 p.m.

The tree will be decorated with lights that will stay lit for the Holidays.

funding for municipal infrastructure permanent by providing \$2 billion annually through the Gas Tax Fund — giving communities the predictable long-term funding they need for the infrastructure we all rely on. We're also supporting families with measures like the Children's Arts Tax Credit, to help parents keep their children active and involved in their communities.

We're also showing respect for taxpayers by phasing out direct government funding of political parties, saving about \$30 million a year and forcing parties to raise their own money instead of relying on taxpayer-funded handouts.

Taken together, these measures keep Canada on the right track. The Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan is helping continue Canada's economic growth and job creation, while providing families and communities with the support they need. Canadians gave our government a strong mandate to remain focused on what matters most and we're doing exactly that.

It has been planted and maintained by the Palgrave Rotary, and was donated to the community by the Thomas family in memory of Sarah Thomas and other cancer victims.

Santa will be visiting the festivities, and hot dogs and hot chocolate will be available at "old fashion" prices.

People planning to attend are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to Caledon Community Services.



A Healthy, Engaged Compassionate Community for All

Employment · Business Services · Transportation
Seniors Supportive Housing · Transitional Care · Respite Care · Eco-Stores
Crisis and Counselling · Language Instruction · Volunteering
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"Respite Workers - Unsung Heroes" By Becky Walker



I often meet with families in crisis. People frustrated, confused and perplexed by Ontario's health care system. Long-term care waitlists, and endless 1-800 numbers attached to voicemails; elderly wives struggling to care for their

husbands; flustered children who don't understand why their father won't move into one of our Assisted Living buildings; and close friends, dumbfounded that a 90-year old woman is living alone in an old farmhouse down a mile-long driveway, her feet too swollen to stand to make her dinner. My referrals come from hospital discharge planners, Community Care Access Centre case managers, social assistance and housing workers, concerned neighbours and grown children of these "at-risk" seniors who live hours away.

Referrals come to me with a long list of the obstacles that the senior, their family or the concerned person has already experienced. How no one has listened to them or returned their calls; how no one has taken the time to sit down and talk with Mrs. Smith; how immediate action is required and how the health care system is failing its elderly population.

So I go out and meet with the seniors. They are all in need of help. Mrs. Edelstein's health is declining because her husband's care is exhausting her. Mr. McIntosh is clearly overwhelmed by the amount of weekly housework that his wife used to take care of. Mrs. Smith's ankles and feet are so swollen, her skin so dry that her pain is evident with every shuffle of her feet as she tells me how independent she is.

However, Mrs. Edelstein is hesitant to accept help and tells me her daughter will come two weekends from now to give her a break. Mr. McIntosh doesn't see how it is unsafe to do his

own laundry just because he has lost his balance a few times while navigating those rickety stairs. And Mrs. Smith does not like pushy social service workers coming into her house telling her how to live, she just needs someone to drop her garbage at the end of her mile-long driveway once a week for pickup.

I suggest to Mrs. Edelstein that maybe she is too frail to be wielding an axe every morning, cutting wood for the stove that heats their country home. While I appreciate her wish to have a family member provide personal care for her husband, perhaps Steve (a strapping young lad) could come once a week to cut wood for the fireplace. He could also spend the afternoon sitting next to the woodstove with Mr. Edelstein, listening to stories of his days as an airplane engineer while she has a lunch date with her daughter in town and picks up some fresh groceries. I persuade Mr. McIntosh to give Heather a try. She is really a lovely woman and not only can she throw a couple loads of laundry in the washing machine, but perhaps they could sit down and make a plan to get his house in order while they fold laundry and share a few laughs. Mrs. Smith, on the other hand, needs to know that she is being heard. She needs that garbage at the end of her road at 7 a.m. She doesn't want company at 7 a.m., just someone to take her garbage to the end of the road. As it happens, Steve, Mrs. Edelstein's worker, drives by Mrs. Smith's home in the mornings and is willing to pick up the garbage from the front porch. Mrs. Smith is pleased that her garbage has finally made it to the end of the road and now agrees to let me return the following week with Judy, a lovely respite worker who just happens to have a mother with swollen feet as well. And wouldn't you know it — she gives the best foot rubs in town!

Thank-you to all of the pretty extraordinary Caledon Community Services' respite workers who get the "small things" done. And wouldn't you know it, sometimes it's the small things that make a world of difference!

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.

You can reach Manager Respite & Transitional Care Services at 905.584.2300 ext 663 or alamers@ccs4u.org

This column is provided free of charge by the Caledon Citizen.

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