



**Canadian Chamber of Commerce Analysis of Federal Political Parties' Economic & Business Policies  
(based on party platforms and statements as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004)**

Canadian Chamber of Commerce Priorities	LIBERAL	CONSERVATIVE	NDP	BLOC
<b>Fiscal Policies:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>No deficit budgets</b></li> <li>● <b>Personal income tax cut priority is for low and middle-income families</b></li> <li>● <b>Further reduce the effective rate of tax on capital</b></li> <li>● <b>Reallocate spending from low to high priority programs</b></li> <li>● <b>Cap growth in spending at 3%, which = population + inflation</b></li> <li>● <b>Reduce debt to GDP ratio below 25% by 2013</b></li> <li>● <b>Keep EI premium rate equal to costs of benefits</b></li> <li>● <b>Reduce airport rents and eliminate Air Travellers' Security Charge</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Balanced budgets</i></li> <li>● <i>Tax cuts not ruled out but not a priority</i></li> <li>● <i>Program review to reallocate \$3 billion annually within four years</i></li> <li>● <i>Program spending growth to increase by 4.4% annually over next two years</i></li> <li>● <i>Set debt-to-GDP ratio to 25% within 10 years</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Committed to balanced budgets</i></li> <li>● <i>Will introduce legislation to set debt-to-GDP ratio</i></li> <li>● <i>Cut taxes to middle-income earners by 27%</i></li> <li>● <i>Eliminate the \$12 airport security tax</i></li> <li>● <i>Increase GST credit by 25%</i></li> <li>● <i>Eliminate GST on the excise tax on gas and on the portion of gas price above 85cents/litre</i></li> <li>● <i>Replace business development subsidies with lower business taxes</i></li> <li>● <i>Implement Registered Lifetime Savings Plan (RLSP)</i></li> <li>● <i>Eliminate annual surplus in EI fund</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Committed to five straight balanced budgets</i></li> <li>● <i>Forget the debt</i></li> <li>● <i>Recover uncollected taxes of \$8.5 billion</i></li> <li>● <i>Rollback corporate tax cuts to net \$9.5 billion</i></li> <li>● <i>Eliminate income taxes for those earning less than \$15,000</i></li> <li>● <i>Introduce inheritance tax</i></li> <li>● <i>Improve Child Tax Benefit</i></li> <li>● <i>Remove GST from books, kids clothes and medicine</i></li> <li>● <i>Close certain tax loopholes</i></li> <li>● <i>Enact tax disincentives; cut tax breaks for oil, coal and nuclear</i></li> <li>● <i>Reduce airport rents and air security tax</i></li> <li>● <i>Project increase to budget of \$61 billion over 5 yrs.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>End the use of tax shelters</i></li> <li>● <i>Give tax credit for families with children under 18</i></li> <li>● <i>Place surtax on oil company profits</i></li> <li>● <i>Ensure seniors receive guaranteed income supplements</i></li> <li>● <i>EI reimbursement plan for women, youth and seasonal workers</i></li> </ul>

## Health Care Policies:

Canadian Chamber of Commerce Priorities	LIBERAL	CONSERVATIVE	NDP	BLOC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Improve patient access by improving efficiency;</b></li> <li>● <b>Greater accountability through performance benchmarks;</b></li> <li>● <b>Increased role for private sector service delivery in publicly funded system</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Additional short-term increase in funding by \$3B over two years.</i></li> <li>● <i>Extra \$4B over 5 years for wait time reduction.</i></li> <li>● <i>Pharmacare to be determined</i></li> <li>● <i>Escalator formula to be determined</i></li> <li>● <i>Primary care reform and a \$2B home care program</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Proposing a greater federal role in pharmacare with new national drug plan.</i></li> <li>● <i>In addition to long-term investments, suggesting greater accountability with performance measures for outcomes.</i></li> <li>● <i>Allow alternative delivery options.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Raise federal funding by 25% within two years.</i></li> <li>● <i>Reduce costs through national bulk-buying drug program and increase non-profit based home care.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Demand that federal government substantially increase financing of health sector without conditions</i></li> </ul>

## International Relations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Commitment to continued trade and investment liberalization</b></li> <li>● <b>Resolve Canada-US trade disputes</b></li> <li>● <b>Fully implement Canada-US border agenda</b></li> <li>● <b>Outline next steps for deeper Canada-US economic relations</b></li> <li>● <b>Address North American security needs</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Work on trade relationship with the United States</i></li> <li>● <i>Build stronger economic ties with countries such as China, India and Brazil</i></li> <li>● <i>Work to implement Canada-US Smart Border Action Plan</i></li> <li>● <i>Enforce Anti-Terrorism Bill on grounds that Canada's security is "indivisible" from that of the U.S.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Diversify products that are sold abroad, as well as the markets they are sold into</i></li> <li>● <i>Secure access to international markets through negotiation of trade agreements</i></li> <li>● <i>Work to reduce tariffs and trade barriers</i></li> <li>● <i>Seek a clear definition of what constitutes an export subsidy</i></li> <li>● <i>Establish a Perimeter Security Agency by combining the Customs Agency with a revitalized Coast Guard, Ports Police and Air Transport Security Agency to ensure efficient and effective sharing of information with Canada's North American partners</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Seek new global trade rules that would protect human rights, labour standards, cultural diversity and the environment</i></li> <li>● <i>Water should be exempted under NAFTA, the World Trade Organization and other trade agreements</i></li> <li>● <i>Eliminate the investor-state dispute mechanism in NAFTA, or Chapter 11</i></li> <li>● <i>Safeguard civil liberties so that Canadians from ethnic communities are not targeted unfairly by the Anti-terrorism bill, and all Canadians can feel free to express legitimate dissent</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Ensure Canada's international role focuses on fostering human rights and dignity</i></li> <li>● <i>Ottawa should allow the Quebec gov't. to be an equal partner in international forums where its interests are at stake</i></li> <li>● <i>Creation of a Free Trade Zone of the Americas with a mechanism in place to ensure wealth redistribution and upkeep the common good over special interests</i></li> <li>● <i>Modify Chapter 11 of NAFTA so government can legislate for the common good</i></li> </ul>
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<b>Revenue for Municipalities:</b>				
<b>Canadian Chamber of Commerce Priorities</b>	<b>LIBERAL</b>	<b>CONSERVATIVE</b>	<b>NDP</b>	<b>BLOC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Municipalities need to secure new arrangements to diversify their revenue base &amp; finance ongoing needs</b></li> <li>• <b>Ensure overall tax burden for Canadians does not increase if a portion of federal gas excise tax revenues are transferred to municipalities</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Share gas tax (or equivalent) up to \$2 billion per year in 5 years</i></li> <li>• <i>\$7 billion in GST/HST relief over the next 10 years</i></li> <li>• <i>Focus on social and affordable housing by adding up to \$1.5 billion over the next 5 years</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vacate some gas tax revenue through agreements with the provinces</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Share half the gas-tax with cities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Set aside 1% of budget or \$2 billion per year for social housing</i></li> </ul>



## Energy/Environment:

Canadian Chamber of Commerce Priorities	LIBERAL	CONSERVATIVE	NDP	BLOC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>With climate change, understand the link to energy issues and the need for technology solutions over a longer period of time.</b></li> <li>• <b>Strategic approach to energy development in Canada.</b></li> <li>• <b>Science-based approach to environmental regulation</b></li> <li>• <b>Support Canadian Industry Program for Energy Conservation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sell shares in Petro-Canada</i></li> <li>• <i>Respect the Kyoto Agreement</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Advocate made-in-Canada policies that result in cleaner environment</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase the use of renewable energy and promote conservation while ensuring supply</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Committed to meeting the Kyoto Agreement by establishing a new crown corporation focused on conservation and renewable energy</i></li> <li>• <i>Endorse polluter-pay principle</i></li> <li>• <i>Assist provinces shifting from coal through National Power Strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Create a Canadian Climate Exchange of tradable emission credits for corporations</i></li> <li>• <i>Establish East-West power grid</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Implement the Kyoto Agreement so that it is fair to Quebec and based on the polluter-pays principle</i></li> <li>• <i>Invest in wind turbine energy</i></li> <li>• <i>Place surtax on profits of large oil companies</i></li> </ul>

## Innovation & Productivity Policies:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Boost investment in education and skills development</b></li> <li>• <b>Implement smart regulations including national securities regulator</b></li> <li>• <b>Remove inter-provincial trade barriers</b></li> <li>• <b>Drive e-business adoption</b></li> <li>• <b>Use immigration to bring needed skills to Canada and recognize foreign professional qualifications.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Improve student loans programs; implement grants for low-income students</i></li> <li>• <i>Introduce “learning accounts” for young families</i></li> <li>• <i>Promise to modernize workforce training programs</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Improve student loans; offer grants to low-income students</i></li> <li>• <i>Introduce Canada Learning Bonds</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase Canada Education grants and registered life-long savings program</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensure speedier recognition of foreign credentials &amp; prior work experience for immigrants</i></li> <li>• <i>Eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers in commerce, labour &amp; capital mobility through non-constitutional means</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Will lower tuition; offer interest-free student loans</i></li> <li>• <i>Ban private for-profit universities</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase immigration with target of 1% of population</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Full GST reimbursement for all public education institutions</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase transfer funds from Ottawa for education</i></li> </ul>
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