



Canada's Premiers engage federal party leaders

ST. JOHN'S, July 17, 2015 –Through their collaborative efforts, Premiers are working to improve the lives of Canadians. Recognizing the decision facing Canadians this fall leading up to the federal election, Premiers have written to federal party leaders outlining a number of priorities important to Canadians.

Premiers released a letter they sent to the federal party leaders.

Canadians can learn more at www.canadaspremiers.ca.

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Contact:

Heather MacLean
Director of Communications
Office of the Premier
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
(709) 729-3581
heathermaclean@gov.nl.ca



July 17, 2015

The Right Honourable Stephen J. Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Conservative Party of Canada
1204-130 Albert St.
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4
Fax to: 613-941-6900 (*Parliamentary Office*)
E-mail to: stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister,

This fall, Canadians will choose a federal government. Canada's Premiers believe this choice must be informed by clear information from the federal parties and their leaders on priority issues facing Canadians.

Both orders of government are equal partners in confederation and Premiers call for partnership with the federal government for the benefit of all Canadians. Canadians expect their leaders to be focused on addressing citizens' priority issues: jobs and the economy; healthcare and fiscal imbalance; Aboriginal issues; and climate change.

Premiers are focused on maintaining and strengthening Canada's economic union. We have outlined elements for a strategic agenda to enhance productivity and economic growth, including trade, infrastructure investment, action on climate change, energy, labour market and skills. We are also collaborating to bring innovative approaches to the delivery of health care services and reducing the cost of brand name and generic drugs.

These issues are common priorities for the people we serve.

Jobs and the Economy

Canadians expect their leaders to strengthen Canada's economy and increase opportunities for employment of Canadians, including:

- improving productivity and innovation and positioning Canadian businesses to succeed in the global economy;
- fostering collaboration between the federal government and provinces and territories in the negotiation of international free trade agreements, concluding negotiations currently underway (including the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with India and the Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan), and deepening Canada's bilateral trade and economic relationship with China;
- improving the timeliness of approvals for major resource projects while ensuring due diligence;
- enhancing public infrastructure investment to both maintain existing infrastructure and support new investment to grow the economy and enhance productivity; and
- delivering infrastructure in a manner that recognizes the differing priorities and respects the existing infrastructure plans of provinces and territories in Canada.

Health Care and Fiscal Imbalance

Canadians expect their leaders to support strong and effective health care systems and quality services for families, including:

- addressing the needs and opportunities presented by an aging population, including investments to address the impact of population aging on the fiscal balance between the federal government and provincial-territorial governments;
- Increasing funding through the Canada Health Transfer so that the federal share of Canada's health care costs is at least 25% of all health care spending by provinces and territories. This additional investment would help address innovation and transformation in health care systems; and
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Aboriginal Issues

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- taking action to respond to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
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- working with provinces, territories and Aboriginal organizations to end violence against Aboriginal women and girls, and supporting a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls; and
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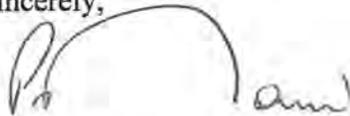
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We believe there is an opportunity to forge a new partnership that will improve Canada's economy and more effectively deliver services to Canadians. We request a First Ministers' Meeting to discuss these important priorities within six months of the forthcoming federal election.

Sincerely,



Paul Davis
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

cc: Premiers



July 17, 2015

The Honourable Thomas J. Mulcair, P.C., M.P.
Leader of the Official Opposition
New Democratic Party of Canada
300-279 Laurier West
Ottawa, ON K1P 5J9
Fax to: 613-230-9950
E-mail to: thomas.mulcair@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Mulcair,

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Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

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July 17, 2015

Mr. Justin Trudeau, M.P.
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
600 - 81 Metcalfe St
Ottawa, ON K1P 6M8
Fax to: 613 235 7208
E-mail to: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Trudeau,

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July 17, 2015

Ms. Elizabeth May, O.C., M.P.
Leader of the Green Party of Canada
PO Box 997, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5R1
Fax to: 613 706 1424
E-mail: Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ms. May,

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July 17, 2015

Mr. Gilles Duceppe
Bloc Québécois
3750 Cremazie East, Suite 502
Montréal, QC H2A 1B6
Fax to: 514 526-2868
E-mail to: info@bloc.org

Dear Mr. Duceppe,

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