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CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA RESPONSE TO CANADA'S PREMIERS:

Economic Competitiveness

Q: What measures will you take to enhance Canada's economic competitiveness? How will you integrate Indigenous perspectives into that dialogue? What regulatory approach will you take to enhance investor certainty while ensuring environmental protection? How will you ensure strategic economic infrastructure is adequately funded and supported? Will you streamline the process from provinces and territories to access federal infrastructure funding? Will you commit to reducing federal exceptions to the Canada Free Trade Agreement? Will you commit to undertaking a targeted effort to reduce unnecessary federal regulatory red tape? Will you give provinces and territories a seat at the table in international trade negotiations? How will you support provinces and territories, businesses, workers, and communities when major economic partners such as China and the United States impose unfair restrictions to trade on Canadian exports? How will you work to ensure Canadian companies are exempt from Buy American requirements? What will you do to enhance international trade opportunities and increase Canadian exports? What steps will you take to reduce Canada's reliance on foreign oil and will you commit to a goal of Canadian energy independence?

A:

Enhancing Canada's Economic Competitiveness

Canada needs a strong, dynamic economy that encourages investment to provide work and opportunity for all Canadians.

Justin Trudeau has imposed high taxes and burdensome regulations. He has attacked small business owners, making it harder for them to grow their business and hire Canadians. The promise of potential is what makes Canada unique and special, and this should not be taken for granted. Like many Western countries, Canada will face a massive demographic shift in the coming decade. As our baby boomers retire, we will need workers, innovators, job creators, and risk-takers to sustain a thriving economy and ensure the high standard of living that Canadians enjoy and expect.

To create and maintain more good jobs, as Prime Minister, Andrew Scheer will:

- **Repeal Trudeau's Carbon Tax**
- **Stop Justin Trudeau's attacks on small business**
- **Create a National Energy Corridor**
- **Boost innovation**
- **Support economic immigration**
- **Get infrastructure built**
- **Promote interprovincial trade**
- **Support key Canadian industries**

A new Conservative government will spend the same amount on infrastructure that the Liberal government had allocated to the Invest in Canada Plan, but we will spread it over a reasonable and responsible timeframe. We will extend the Investing in Canada Plan by an additional three years so that the entire \$187-billion program is spent over 15 years instead of 12.

Our new infrastructure profile will be realistic, yet ambitious, and focused on results. We will gradually bring the annual infrastructure allocations to levels that had been historic highs only seen during the stimulus spending of the last recession. Once the budget is balanced, we will gradually increase the infrastructure budget as the budgetary surplus grows.

As Prime Minister, Andrew Scheer will:

1. Maintain all projects committed to by the Liberal Government;
2. Maintain all statutory spending such as the Gas Tax Fund;
3. Commit to a reasonable and responsible infrastructure timeline; and,
4. Fund important projects such as:
 - The George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project (British Columbia)
 - The Ontario Line and the Yonge Subway Extension (Ontario)
 - The third link between Quebec City and Levis (Quebec)

Interprovincial Trade Barriers

To get our goods and services moving across provincial borders, we will convene a first minister's meeting to establish a new comprehensive and effective free trade agreement. At this meeting, we will create a process to determine whether differences in laws and regulations unnecessarily prevent trade or whether they are reasonable exercises of provincial jurisdiction. Eliminating interprovincial trade barriers could improve Canada's competitiveness and productivity, boosting Canada's economy by \$90 billion, according to the International Monetary Fund.

To increase opportunities for Canadians to work anywhere in Canada, we will expand the Red Seal Program to recognize common credentials. We will work with the provinces and territories to harmonize apprenticeship training and trade certification in their jurisdictions.

Reducing Red Tape

To make it easier for job creators to succeed, a new Conservative government will reduce the regulatory burden by 25 per cent over our four-year mandate. We will set targets for each minister and each department. To get there, we will implement a 2-for-1 rule whereby the government would have to get rid of two regulations before imposing any new one. This will help to lower unnecessary costs for entrepreneurs and to make it easier to start and run a business.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce found that there were 131,754 regulations on the federal books in 2015. The Montreal Economic Institute found that they now number 136,000, an increase of 4,300 since Justin Trudeau became Prime Minister. These federal regulations are on top of hundreds of thousands of provincial rules and red tape, many of which are duplicated at the federal level.

To lead government-wide regulatory reduction, we will assign responsibility for red tape reduction to a minister reporting directly to the Prime Minister. This will help to ensure that we meet our red tape reduction targets and eliminate, where possible, regulatory discrepancies and duplication with the provinces. We will call on experts from the private sector, individuals who truly understand the administrative burden of these regulations, to support the cost-benefit analysis.

Furthermore, we will mandate all ministers and regulators to support innovation, economic growth, and competitiveness.

Trade

Today's globalized world and Canada's position in the global supply chain offers great opportunities, but it also presents risk if our international relationships are mishandled. Canadians caught a glimpse

of this risk with Justin Trudeau's disastrous trip to India, hurting our relationship with one of the world's most populous nations. In the recent NAFTA negotiations, Justin Trudeau made numerous concessions to United States President Donald Trump and allowed Mexico to lead negotiations. As Justin Trudeau mishandles Canada's trading relationships, he puts the livelihoods of Canadians at risk. Conservative governments have always made trade a top priority. The previous Conservative government signed 53 trade and investment agreements, including negotiations with 11 countries in the Trans Pacific Partnership, and 28 countries in the European Union. A new Conservative government will champion our industries both at home and abroad, renew relationships with our trading partners, and work to sign new trade deals to ensure the prosperity of Canada. To expand Canada's trade towards emerging markets and reduce dependence on the US, we will engage the United Kingdom and the countries of Mercosur and ASEAN in negotiations toward free trade agreements. These new markets present opportunities for Canadian businesses to grow and increase their exports.

We will also work with the European Union, Japan, and Australia to support and maintain multilateral trade institutions and dispute resolution. Trading nations like Canada benefit from robust multinational trade environments that put us on a level playing field. Canada has struggled in trade disputes with its two most important trading partners – the US and China – both of which are much larger than Canada. Canada must continue to play a central role in institutions like the World Trade Organization, as impartial trade arbitrators are usually the most effective way to resolve these disputes.

To support Canadian industries, a new Conservative government's focus will remain squarely on promoting Canada's competitive advantage in global supply chains. Justin Trudeau has prioritized self-congratulatory speeches that charm celebrities and aggravate our trading partners. It is time to focus on Canadians, not Trudeau's progressive posturing.

We will respond forcefully to non-tariff barriers, particularly in the agriculture sector, and foreign industrial subsidies so that Canadians can compete on a level playing field. Many of the trade disputes that have been big barriers to our exports of agricultural goods have been met with half-hearted responses from Justin Trudeau. Canadian canola, soy, pork, beef, berries, lentils, and many other products have been impacted, costing Canadian producers hundreds of millions of dollars.

A Conservative government would set up global monitoring of non-tariff barriers and aggressively challenge these at the World Trade Organization. We would also be willing to retaliate with our own trade sanctions, such as imposing tariffs or regulatory restrictions, to forcefully defend Canada's trade interests.

To ensure that our trading partners live up to the spirit, not just the letter, of our agreements, we will insist on chapters dealing with non-tariff trade barriers in future trade deals. Decades ago, the primary barriers to trade were tariffs. As these have come down, it is now regulatory and non-tariff barriers that are the biggest problems for Canadian exporters, particularly in the agricultural sector. Canadian canola, soy, pork, beef, berries, lentils, and many other products have been blocked by arbitrary rules overseas. We will include chapters in future trade agreements to address these issues and to find new ways for resolve disputes.

How will you integrate Indigenous perspectives into that dialogue?

It is essential to incorporate Indigenous perspectives as we work to improve our economic competitiveness. Recent court cases have shown that Canada needs a more effective and responsive

approach to consultations, and it is increasingly clear that we must work together to remove barriers that are preventing Indigenous communities from engaging fully in Canada's economy. A Conservative government will be a full partner in helping Indigenous communities build a more prosperous future.

What regulatory approach will you take to enhance investor certainty while ensuring environmental protection?

We believe that Canada must maintain robust, world-leading environmental standards but that this doesn't mean that project proponents should have to deal with uncertainty and endless delays. To this end will repeal Bill C-69 and replace it with legislation that will: clarify the roles of proponents and governments that are involved in consultations; ensure that official standing is given only to those with expertise or who are directly impacted (while still providing ample opportunity for public comment); and provide certainty to investors on approval timelines and schedules.

What steps will you take to reduce Canada's reliance on foreign oil and will you commit to a goal of Canadian energy independence?

We are committed to the goal of energy independence. In order to accomplish this, though, we have to ensure that Canada once again becomes a country where big projects can get built. Under the previous Conservative government private companies had proposed to build pipelines that would have allowed Canadian oil and gas to access world markets, and allowed eastern refineries to use more Canadian oil. Unfortunately, these nation-building projects have been either cancelled, killed or put on life support by the Trudeau Liberals. We will create a regulatory regime that protects the environment while providing certainty to investors, provide full support for those projects that have been approved, and create a national energy corridor that will help us build critical linear infrastructure, including for the transmission of electricity and petroleum products.

A National Energy Corridor could help us move our oil and gas from Alberta and Saskatchewan. It could provide opportunities in Ontario and Quebec to move our hydroelectricity to new markets. It could connect rural communities in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with vital telecommunications infrastructure. It could provide economic opportunities for Indigenous communities in British Columbia along its route. With a National Energy Corridor, we can minimize environmental impacts, lower the cost of environmental assessments without sacrificing quality, increase certainty for investors, and get critical projects built.

Jobs and Skills Training

Q: How will you work with provinces and territories to create jobs and enhance skills training for Canadians? What measures will you take to support Indigenous peoples and under-represented groups? What measures will you take to support workers, businesses, and communities adversely affected by federal policy decisions?

A:

Like many Western countries, Canada will face a massive demographic shift in the coming decade. As our baby boomers retire, we will need workers, innovators, job creators, and risk-takers to sustain a thriving economy and ensure the high standard of living that Canadians enjoy and expect.

To make sure that Canadians receive the best advice, skills training, and employment assistance, we will establish success measures for the hundreds of millions of dollars that the Government of Canada currently spends to prepare Canadians for the workforce. A new Conservative government will work

with colleges and universities to make sure courses, programs, and academic curricula reflect the demands of today's labour market so that we are setting our students up for success.

We will ensure government re-training programs meet the demand for skills required for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The biggest competitive advantage that Canada's technology sector has is highly skilled workers and talent. We also hear that critical skills shortages are hurting our tech industry's ability to grow.

Indigenous people face many barriers to prosperity that other Canadians do not face. We are committed to working with them to identify and remove these barriers.

Immigration

Q: Will you commit to foster greater economic immigration by achieving a minimum target of 65% of annual admissions for economic immigrants? Will you commit to reasonable common standards for processing times for all categories of economic immigrants, whether they are selected federally or provincially? Will you add greater flexibility to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program to meet the needs of small- and medium-sized enterprises who can demonstrate difficulty finding Canadian workers? What measures will you take to support provincial and territorial settlement assistance? Will the federal government recognize the specific requirements of provinces and territories in relation to immigration?

A:

To match prospective immigrants with jobs in Canada and to help Canadian employers fill skills shortages, we will reverse Justin Trudeau's policy decision to reduce the number of points awarded for a job offer under the Express Entry Program. We will restructure the program to better match its original intent, attracting the world's best and brightest to help our industries succeed.

A new Conservative government will also work to keep the best and brightest talent in Canada after they finish university. International students educated in Canada are ideal candidates to help fill gaps in the Canadian job market. We will prepare and implement a plan to match students with jobs, focusing on high-demand skills.

To enhance the workforce in our rural and Northern communities, we will encourage new economic immigrants to consider jobs in remote parts of the country by providing them with information about opportunities that exist outside of our urban centres.

To help businesses fill vacancies that cannot be filled by Canadians, we will rework the Temporary Foreign Workers Program to better align it with domestic needs.

To better support new arrivals to Canada, we will continue to support settlement services for newcomers. Language training, credential recognition, and specific services for vulnerable newcomers such as women and girls and members of the LGBTQ+ community, are key to the successful integration of new immigrants into their new home. A new Conservative government will preserve the integrity of our immigration system and make sure that our immigration programs lead to newcomers being fully supported and integrated into Canadian society and Canada's economy. Family is an important element in settling into a new society, so we will also continue to support the Family Reunification Program, including sponsorship of parents and grandparents.

To ensure newcomers have access to employment opportunities, we will direct Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to match employment backgrounds of newcomers to the employment needs of companies that rely on the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. The TFWP should provide temporary help where clear and acute labour shortages exist and where Canadian workers are not available. If Canadians, including new Canadians, are available for work, then companies should be encouraged to hire them.

Healthcare Sustainability and Innovation

Q: Will you commit to returning to a full funding partnership in healthcare? As a starting point, will you increase funding through the Canada Health Transfer by an annual escalator of 5.2%, as recommended by the Conference Board of Canada? Will you ensure that any federal pharmacare program is developed in partnership with provinces and territories, respects the principles articulated by Premiers, and that and jurisdiction who wishes to can opt out unconditionally with full financial compensation? What is your financial commitment to improving health outcomes for Indigenous peoples?

A: To guarantee quality health and social programs, a new Conservative government will maintain and increase funding to the Canada Health Transfer and the Canada Social Transfer according to the current formula. Justin Trudeau's never-ending deficits and out-of-control spending have put Canada on track to hit \$1 trillion in debt by 2035. If Trudeau is given four more years, his debt and never-ending deficits will threaten our ability to deliver quality social services. A new Conservative government will live within its means to protect health care in the long term. We will also maintain the additional Shared Health Priorities funding for mental health and home care for provinces.

To reduce wait times for life-saving tests and ensure timely access to medical imaging tests, a new Conservative government will invest \$1.5 billion in its first term to purchase MRI machines and CT machines to replace aging equipment and add new machines across the country. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians wait longer than the recommended time for an MRI or a CT scan. That is just not good enough. This investment will help our health care providers to deliver quality services with the most up-to-date technology, giving patients quicker access to reliable, potentially life-saving tests.

To ensure that Canadians with rare diseases have access to the drugs they need, we will work closely with provinces and territories, the Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders, and other rare disease groups to implement a strategy that will encourage more orphan drugs to be developed in and brought to Canada, improve early detection of rare diseases and evidence-informed care, and promote innovative research. We will also maintain the \$500 million per year commitment and work with provinces to ensure that Canadians with rare diseases have the access to treatments that they need. About 1 in 12 Canadians, the majority being children, are affected by a rare disease. A rare disease is a condition that affects fewer than 1 in 2,000 people. Unfortunately, those with rare diseases have fewer, if any treatment options, compared to those who suffer from more prevalent diseases. Further, treatments that do exist for rare diseases are often very expensive, in some cases costing millions of dollars per year.

To ensure that the federal government plays an important leadership role in developing a strategy to assist those living with autism and their families, we will work with autism stakeholders to develop a National Autism Strategy. An initial investment of \$50 million over five years will be used to develop a

comprehensive strategy in consultation with autism stakeholders and other levels of government, including Indigenous communities, that will be person-centred, include first-person perspectives, will be culturally appropriate, and will reflect regional needs, especially in northern, rural, and remote communities. The Strategy will be an important first step towards a world where autistic Canadians have access to the resources they need to live to their full potential, are supported where and when needed, and are contributing their unique skills and abilities to the benefit of all Canadians.

Climate Change

Q: What is your climate change plan? Will you respect and support provincial and territorial climate policies that reflect the distinct needs and priorities of each jurisdiction? Will you support emission credit trading across international borders and work with provinces and territories on a strategic approach to finalizing the rules under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement? Will you work with provinces and territories to ensure funding related to natural disaster and climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience is adequate, flexible, timely and streamlined? Will you restore the lower pre-2015 threshold for accessing Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements funding?

A:

Earlier this year we brought forward the most comprehensive environmental platform ever proposed by an Opposition party. On climate change we plan to keep the federal focus on technology, not taxes, and we will take the climate change fight global. More details can be found at arealplan.ca. Central to our plan is a recognition that each province and territory has unique opportunities and challenges when it comes to fighting climate change, and it is our intention to work closely with you to find the best way for Canada to meet its targets. We also plan to pursue opportunities to leverage Canada's advantages in ways that can help lower global emissions, which will include contributing to the negotiation of Article 6, branding and marketing clean Canadian products, and maintaining an openness to finding ways to cooperate across borders. Again, we see provinces and territories as important partners in the fight against climate change, so we will be engaging with you on these and other issues.

Mitigate and Adapt to the Effects of Climate Change

To improve our resilience to extreme weather events, we will incorporate a mitigation and adaptation lens to the government's infrastructure investments. Communities must be able to identify risks and be able to plan to address them. An adaptation lens can include designing infrastructure to be resilient to extreme weather events, but it also might include designing other infrastructure to protect against known hazards. In either case, this will help communities be prepared in the event of an emergency.

A new Conservative government will also pursue natural infrastructure projects that leverage the resilience of our natural landscapes. Enhanced or constructed wetlands and other natural features can provide low-cost protection against floods, drought, and water quality issues, while also providing value like recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration.

Strengthening Canada's Position in the Arctic

Q: How will you work with provinces and territories to ensure Canada's position in the Arctic is strengthened, particularly given international geo-political shifts? How will you empower and work with Indigenous peoples, communities, and governments in the region? What kind of approach will you take to invest in Canada's Arctic and the populations that live there?

A: To address the increasing threat to our Arctic sovereignty posed by Russia, China, and others, we must reinforce Canada's standing as a maritime nation. This will start with improving procurement processes in Ottawa to serve the needs of Canada's Navy and Coast Guard. While Russia and China are both developing and deploying numerous ice breakers to patrol the Arctic, Canadian and American capacity is severely lacking. We will ensure that Canada can provide a counterbalance to the Russian and Chinese threats.

We will build on the Canada-US tradition of joint military partnerships by starting talks with the Americans to join the ballistic missile defence program and modernize the NORAD alliance. We will also act to quickly select a new fighter jet through an open competition and make sure the new jets are interoperable with our American allies.

Above all, we must establish, without a doubt, everywhere in the world, that our sovereignty over the North is non-negotiable. The Arctic does not only belong to us. It is us. And that includes the Northwest Passage.

The previous Conservative government was an active partner in the devolution of responsibilities and powers to the territories, and we plan to continue this approach. We believe that Northerners want more of a say in how they are governed, and that they want to be fully engaged in decisions that affect their livelihoods and their futures.

To give Northerners more control over their future, we will move to allow territorial governments to keep their resource revenues. The territories deserve to benefit from their own natural resources and reinvest their resource revenues, like the provinces do.

Implementation will begin when the federal budget is balanced and will be phased in with the goal of returning 100 per cent of resource revenues by 2027.

Advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Q: How will you work to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples? How will you work to respect the diversity of Indigenous populations across the country, and provincial and territorial roles and perspectives? What is your plan and funding commitment to measurably improve the quality of life in Indigenous communities? How will you address the findings of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and support implementation of the Calls to Justice?

A: The Conservative party supports reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, but there can be no true and lasting reconciliation without economic reconciliation. We want to work with provinces, territories, and Indigenous leaders to identify and address the barriers that keep Indigenous communities from being full participants in the Canadian economy. We recognize that every community is unique, but by working together we believe that we can help break down barriers for everyone. This is the single most important thing we can do to measurably improve the quality of life in Indigenous communities. With respect to the findings of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, we have already committed to developing a National Action plan to address this important issue.

Canadian Federalism

Q: Will you commit to co-hosting regular meetings of First Ministers, beginning with an initial meeting before the end of 2019, with agendas and communiqués co-developed by consensus amongst First Ministers? Will you adopt the principles outlined above? Do you believe the current system of

federal transfers adequately addresses economic downturns when they occur in specific provinces and territories and if not, what changes would you make?

A: An Andrew Scheer government would commit to hosting a First Ministers meeting on January 6th, 2020.