

COALITION YES!

Why Ontario needs a coalition government

Under Prime Minister Stephen Harper's direction, the government has abdicated its responsibility for the Canadian people.

That's why we need a coalition government.

We need political leaders who will work together to do what is best for Canadians. And Ontario needs leaders in the House of Commons who will work with us, not against us.

We do not need another election only weeks after going to the polls. We do not have a constitutional crisis. We have a governing crisis. And the opposition parties have worked within our parliamentary system to present the Governor General and Canadians with a workable alternative to the Conservative government that has chosen not to govern.

The federal Conservative government does not have a plan to help Canadians weather the impact of the global economic crisis. There is general agreement around the world that governments need to take bold and unprecedented action. The recent G-20 Summit meeting called on governments to "take urgent and exceptional measures" to stimulate their economies in a coordinated way to avert a global depression.

Many governments have heeded the call.

The incoming Obama administration in the United States plans to invest \$500 to \$700 billion in January 2009 to create 2.5 million jobs over the next two years, with a major focus on public infrastructure, the environment and improved unemployment benefits.

The governments of Britain, Australia and China have already followed up on G-20 calls for investments of about two per cent of national income. For Canada, that would mean \$30 billion. European Union finance ministers are discussing the details of a \$253- billion economic plan.

Instead of taking action, the government introduced its Conservative Economic and Fiscal Update which ignores economic reality and pretends that yesterday's tax cuts have already done the job. The Conservatives opted for balanced budgets for the next five years over investment in jobs and people. They committed to spending cuts of nearly \$2 billion next year and cuts to transfer payments that provinces use for health, education, and assistance for the poor and unemployed.

The weakness in Ontario's manufacturing and forestry sectors has spread to areas that had been fuelling growth – financial services, construction, and mining. We have lost more than 185,000 manufacturing jobs between 2002 and October 2008. The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation forecast a 17 per cent drop in Ontario housing-starts in 2009. The Bank of Canada commodity price index fell 16.5 per cent between October and November ensuring that the downturn is felt in the mining and other industries. Ontario needs a partner in the federal government to work on these important issues.

Instead of working to bring Canadians together, the Conservative government used the economic crisis as an excuse to try to ram through a partisan and mean-spirited agenda that attacks pay equity, public-sector workers, and funding for opposition members who speak for the 62 per cent of Canadians who did not vote for the Conservatives.

Ontarians are worried about their jobs, their retirement savings, and their futures. We are greatly encouraged that the Opposition parties are prepared to work together around a positive agenda.

What you can do

Let your MP know that you support a coalition government to work together to help us through this difficult time. Send an email through the CLC website

<http://canadianlabour.ca>

Join us at a demonstration to show our support for a coalition government. Watch for updates at www.ofl.ca

TORONTO: NATHAN PHILLIPS SQUARE
WHEN: Saturday, December 6
TIME: 12:00 NOON

OTTAWA: PARLIAMENT HILL
WHEN: Thursday, December 4
TIME: 12:00 NOON