

2005 年聯邦財政預算案簡報會

聯邦稅務部長兼萬錦區國會議員麥家廉，聯同萬錦市加華聯會主席吳建忠醫生及萬錦華商會會長李志鴻，昨日於萬錦市加華聯會文化中心舉行聯邦財政預算案簡報會。會中麥家廉部長指出今年的預算案是自由黨創紀錄連續八年的平衡預算案，並期望紀錄可保持下去。

麥家廉指出是次的財政預算案可望確保加國維持：健全的財政管理、穩固的社會福利制度、持續增長的經濟、邁向控制得宜的經濟和健全社會及肩負全球性的責任等等。是次財政預算案重點如下：

健全的財政管理：五年內每年確保預算平衡，並預留 30 億元儲備及提高財政運作的透明度。

評核開支：政府承諾絕不浪費公帑，確保所有花費均完全用在國民最需要的項目及服務中。

醫療護理：五年內增加 8.05 億元撥款，投資在人力資源保健、健康生活、預防慢性疾病及流感疫症、藥物安全及環境健康待範圍內。

原住民醫療計劃：五年內撥款 7.35 億元給原住民社區，特別照顧兒童、青年及家庭的需要。

學前教育及託兒服務：撥款 50 億元作全國學前教育及託兒服務計劃。

耆老：五年內撥款 27 億元提高低收入耆老的收入補貼。

新移民：五年內撥款 2.98 億元幫助新移民需要及安頓計劃。

環保：五年內撥款 50 億元資助環保及氣候變化計劃。

減稅：調高免稅額至一萬元，使 86 萬人不用繳稅，包括 24 萬耆老；

提高 RRSP 供款上限至二萬二千元；

取消海外投資 30% 的上限；

取消公司附加稅，並調低利得稅，從 21% 降至 19%

革新經濟：訂定獨特投資策略，從而建立具國際水平的研究環境、強而有力的地方經濟、公平而具競爭力的稅收系統及更有效率的市場環境。

國際事務：五年內增撥國際援助資金 34 億元，援助地區包括：非洲、世界最貧窮國家及南亞海嘯賑災援助等等。

國防：撥款超過 120 億元作為國防開支，包括：增聘軍隊、後備軍人及添置新裝備等等。

Federal Budget Briefing 2005

Minister of National Revenue, Hon. John McCallum, M.P.(Markham-Unionville), Dr. Ken Ng, Chairman of Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham (FCCM) and Mr. Danny Li, President of Chinese Chambers of Commerce in Markham (CCCM) presented the Federal Budget Briefing yesterday(25th February) at Markham Chinese Cultural Centre of FCCM.

Hon. John McCallum pointed out that the Liberal government's 2005 Budget represents Canada's eighth consecutive balanced budget – the longest unbroken string of surpluses since Confederation. And they expect it to continue. With this budget, it will ensure Canada to maintain sound fiscal management, has secure social foundations, achieves a productive and growing economy, moves towards a green economy and sustainable communities and meets its global responsibilities. Some of the budget highlights include:

Sound Fiscal Management: All Budget measures will be undertaken within a framework of balanced budgets – this year and for the next five years. We will continue to set aside annual Contingency Reserve of \$3 billion and build a transparent measure of economic prudence.

Expenditure Review: The government is committed to making sure every dollar spent is a dollar well spent. To that end, the Cabinet Committee on Expenditure Review has scrutinized every line of government spending, finding \$11 billion of the \$12 billion in savings it was mandated to find. Every penny will be re-invested in federal programs and services that are high priorities for Canadians.

Health Care: In September 2004, First Ministers signed a 10-year Plan to Strengthen Health Care, which will provide \$41.3 billion over 10 years. Budget 2005 builds on this with \$805 million over five years in new direct federal health investments, such as health human resources, healthy living and chronic disease prevention, pandemic influenza preparedness, drug safety, and Environmental health.

Aboriginal Health Programs: An additional \$735 million over the next five years for Aboriginal health programs addressing urgent needs, with a focus on children, youth and their families.

Early Learning and Childcare: Budget 2005 follows through on the Liberal government's pledge to build the foundations of an Early Learning and Child Care initiative across the country with \$5 billion in new investments.

Seniors: A \$2.7 billion increase over five years to the Guaranteed Income Supplement benefits for low-income seniors and a \$15 million increase to the New Horizons for Seniors program addressing the needs of seniors.

Immigration: \$298 million over five years will be provided to make services more responsive to the needs of immigrants, and enhance settlement and integration programs to help newcomers to Canada become fully contributing members of the workforce more quickly.

Environment: Over \$5 billion in investments over the next five years to preserve our natural environment and address climate change.

Tax Relief: Tax reductions for individuals – especially low- and modest-income Canadians. It will also promote economic growth by making Canada's tax system more efficient and competitive. It does this by:

Increasing to \$10,000 the amount of income that all Canadians may earn without paying federal income tax. This will remove 860,000 taxpayers, including 240,000 seniors, from the tax rolls;

Increasing to \$22,000 the annual RRSP contribution limits;

Eliminating the Foreign Content Rule, which limited foreign pension investments to 30 percent;

Eliminating the corporate surtax and reducing to 19 percent from 21 percent the general corporate income tax rate, thereby maintaining our tax rate advantage relative to the U.S..

Innovative Economy: Significant strategic investments in building a highly skilled and adaptable workforce, a world-class research environment, stronger regional economies, a fair and competitive tax system and more efficient and effective markets.

International: An increase of \$3.4 billion over the next 5 years for international assistance to ensure that Canada continues to meet its global responsibilities, including aid to Africa, debt-relief initiatives for the world's poorest countries and support for immediate humanitarian responses, such as the Tsunami relief package.

Defence: Over \$12 billion in new money for defence – the largest increase in the last 20 years. This includes funding for new troops and new reserves, operational sustainability, and the acquisition of new equipment.