

SCOTT BRISON

news,
events,
milestones &
announcements
from and about
Kings-Hants M.P.
Scott
Brison

SPRING 2005



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REPORT FROM PARLIAMENT

Budget 2005: 8th Balanced Budget and a Growing Economy

The Government of Canada presented an ambitious agenda and a clear commitment to Canadians in the 2005 budget. The budget keeps the books balanced for the 8th year in a row, the longest string of surpluses since Confederation, and keeps Canada's debt on a permanent downward track. Low interest rates, stable inflation, solid economic growth, and the best fiscal performance in the G-7 has allowed the government to deliver on major investments in communities and people.



Reducing debt in a reasonable and measured way relieves a big burden on future generations. It saves billions of dollars in servicing charges and it facilitates a Triple-A credit rating, lower interest rates and rising standards of living. Since the budget was first balanced, the federal debt has been reduced by more than \$60 billion, resulting in savings to Canadians of more than \$3 billion annually.

Following the June 2004 election Prime Minister Martin announced the creation of the Expenditure Review Committee (ERC) of Cabinet. Its mandate was to commence a rigorous review of federal spending, testing for relevance, efficiency and excellence, and to submit recommendations prior to Budget 2005.

As a member of the ERC, Kings-Hants MP Scott Brison contributed

to the most extensive review of government spending in modern history. "The expenditure review process identified \$11 billion in savings that will be reallocated to higher priority programs, and it will become an ongoing exercise that will be part of the very core government so that our spending consistently reflects the current reality," Minister Brison said.



Hon. Scott Brison visited the Tiny Tot's Academy Child Care Society in Enfield in March to announce funding for the facility. Minister Brison said balanced budgets and ongoing debt reduction are a gift to future generations of Canadians. (more on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2005 BUDGET

Savings –
\$11 billion in savings from improved efficiencies in how the government operates.

Securing Health Care –
\$75 billion for the 10-Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care and the new framework for Equalization. And, \$805 million to reduce waiting times and encourage healthy living.

Tax Reductions –
The basic personal exemption will be increased to \$10,000, which will remove 800,000 Canadians from the tax rolls altogether, and lower taxes for all Canadians.

Helping Communities –
\$5 billion in federal gas tax revenues will be shared with communities across Canada to be used for investment in infrastructure.

Investing in People –
Enhanced tax relief for people with disabilities and their caregivers, increased Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors, and \$5 billion for Early Learning and Child Care.

Defence –
The budget provides increased defence funding of \$12.8 billion over five years.

The issue of confidence in government and transparency in spending is important to Prime Minister Martin. Since he became PM, Paul Martin has introduced

a number of steps to ensure the highest standard of conduct. An Independent Ethics Counsellor has been appointed who reports directly to Parliament. A Comptroller General has been named to oversee all government spending. Whistleblower legislation was introduced to aid in the reporting of wrongdoing. All expenses of senior officials are posted on a public website.

BRISON SPEAKING ACROSS THE COUNTRY...

CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

September 21, 2004

"I'm confident we can improve services, reduce costs and save hundreds of millions of dollars...perhaps billions of dollars over time. My goal is to find cost efficiencies without reducing services to Canadians. Our mantra in everything we do should be — let me rephrase that, will be — respect for hard earned taxpayers dollars."

PROVINCIAL MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES

October 16, 2004, New Westminster, British Columbia

"Too often the public face of federal-provincial relations has been one of squabbling over who should pay, how much, and who has what mandate. However, the federal and provincial governments have already started to reshape that prevailing view with the recent Health Accord. Let's build on that and do more...let's collaborate on services; let's recognize our differences but work from our strengths and above all let's try to work together."

CANADIAN PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

October 27, 2004

"As Prime Minister Martin said, the message of the election is clear: Canadians have given us a mandate, and we must now show we can do better as a government. The public deserves and expects results — and the result I want to deliver is better and faster services at a reduced cost. Canadians need to know that we're treating their tax dollars with the utmost respect."

CANADIAN CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANTS

December 7, 2004

"All Canadians should feel proud of our economic success: our low interest rates, low inflation, and historically low unemployment rate. Our dollar has strengthened, we're paying down the national debt and we've achieved seven consecutive budget surpluses."

OAKVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 12, 2005

"Greening" government is not only the right thing to do, it can save money as well. Public Works and Government Services Canada is in the forefront of using low-emission vehicles. Our aim is to move as many vehicles in the government fleet as possible to alternative or hybrid fuel vehicles as leases run out. If we save just 10 percent in fuel consumption that would mean a savings of roughly \$5 million a year."

OTTAWA CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

February 21, 2005

"I am completely and absolutely committed to small and medium-sized enterprises. After all, small business generates about one-half of the total Canadian economic activity and it provides about 60 percent of the total jobs."

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (ITAC)

April 05, 2005

"We will be setting up a new Office for Small Business within my department to help streamline, simplify and facilitate access to government business. There will still be Regional Standing Offers to ensure businesses in every area of the country can have access to government procurement."

ECONOMIC CLUB OF TORONTO

April 19, 2005

"The public has the right to be angry. I personally am very angry. I gotta tell you I could not and would not defend these types of activities. They are indefensible. I have no difficulty — and am in fact proud to defend the actions of our Prime Minister and government in cleaning up this mess and getting to the bottom on this issue."

SECURING HEALTH CARE: A PROMISE MADE AND A PROMISE KEPT

Last September, the government delivered on its 2004 election commitment to provide stable and long term funding for health care when a unanimous, ten-year, \$41-billion agreement on health care was reached with all of Canada's Premiers.

Predictable and growing federal funding will bring real change and make a real difference.

As a result, the government has surpassed every financial benchmark established by

the Romanow Commission on Health Care.



In addition, last October a new framework for provincial Equalization was introduced providing \$33 billion in incremental funding to the provinces over the coming decade.

With more federal money than ever before

and with agreements to report regularly to citizens on the progress being made, the government is now working to make our health care system better through:

- shorter waiting times
- more health care professionals and equipment
- better primary care and home care
- greater research and innovation
- better public health and wellness.

OFFSHORE ACCORD: A PROMISE MADE AND A PROMISE KEPT

In February, Prime Minister Paul Martin signed an agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia that ensures the people of the province will be the primary beneficiaries of its offshore resource revenues.

The agreement will see Nova Scotia receive 100% of offshore revenues, including an advance payment of \$830 million. Further, the agreement ensures 100% protection from

reductions or "clawbacks" in equalization for the next eight years. "The Prime Minister has honoured his commitment," Nova Scotia Premier John Hamm said.

Kings-Hants MP Scott Brison welcomed the announcement, saying, "Prime Minister Martin committed to this in the last election, and it is a promise kept." He also noted that the agreement will "give the Province of Nova Scotia significantly more fiscal flexibility."



Scott recently toured the new East Hants Resource Centre in Elmsdale with Councillor Charles McCulloch of Noel and developer Kirk McCulloch.



Mr. Brison welcomed (l-r) Anke Kungl (Newport), Jessica Roy (Canning), and Jessica Hutchinson (Wolfville) to Ottawa where they participated in the 2005 Rotary Club Adventure in Citizenship Program. The three students joined 200 other outstanding senior high school students from across Canada for the four-day program designed to develop their potential as leaders in their communities and in Canadian society.

N.S. COULD GET MORE FEDERAL JOBS, BRISON SAYS

- Chronicle Herald, March 18, 2005

"Some jobs could move back to the region, he said.

I'm a proponent of decentralization."

"Nova Scotia

represents one of the provinces that would benefit from

a greater level of

decentralization,

not just within our

department, but

potentially in others."

The minister said he's

looking at moving

some of the units

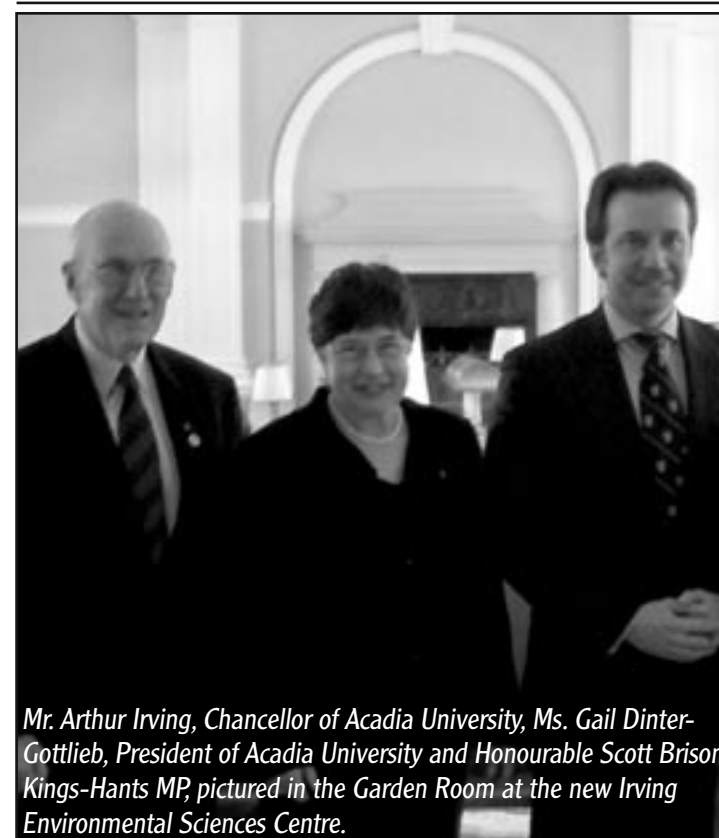
within his department

(Public Works and

Government Services)

out of Ottawa.

Brison Announces Funding For Acadia University Business Centre



Mr. Arthur Irving, Chancellor of Acadia University, Ms. Gail Dinter-Gottlieb, President of Acadia University and Honourable Scott Brison, Kings-Hants MP, pictured in the Garden Room at the new Irving Environmental Sciences Centre.

Kings-Hants MP Scott Brison recently visited Acadia University to announce that the Acadia Centre for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ACSBE) will receive \$468,668 from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to support and expand its services.

"The Acadia Centre is a lynchpin of progress in the valley and beyond," said Minister Brison. "It has been recognized by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council for its ability to link the

academic world to the realities of small business. This funding will help ACSBE deliver an even higher level of programming within the community," he said.

Operating as an outreach of Acadia University since 1988, ACSBE provides entrepreneurial skill development, small business counselling and consulting, and advisory services in social and community entrepreneurship. ACSBE serves the Acadia University community

and residents of central southwest Nova Scotia in partnership with the regional development agencies in Kings, Hants, and Lunenburg counties. It has assisted in the creation of 410 new businesses.

Acadia University, one of Canada's premier undergraduate institutions, is now recognized as one of Canada's most entrepreneurial universities with over 30% of its students involved in entrepreneurial skill development.

In Kings-Hants

ENFIELD

The Tot's Academy Child Care Society in Enfield received \$43,717 in federal funding to help two youths gain work experience at the daycare facility. "I am pleased this project will focus on youth in our community," said Mr. Brison when he visited the daycare for the announcement in March. (see photo page 1)



Scott Brison and John Bedard, President of the Valley District Soccer Association, at the opening of the new Valley Sport Facility in Kentville.

KENTVILLE

The new indoor Valley Sport and Multipurpose Facility in Kentville was officially opened in March. The federal government contributed \$500,000 to the project which contains a soccer field that will allow the Valley to build

on its reputation as the Soccer Capital of Canada.

BURNCOAT HEAD

Burncoat Head Park, home of the world's highest tides, received \$67,397 for site development to help it further develop as a significant tourist attraction. "The aim of our investment is to develop and enhance this park to attract additional visitors,"

to help individuals without jobs to create and sustain their own small businesses.

"I'm pleased to announce funding for this exciting project," said Minister Brison. "Entrepreneurs are the life of the Nova Scotia business community. It is important that the Government of Canada provide support to those who have great ideas, but need help to turn their ideas into a viable and thriving business."

Under this project, the Hants-Kings Business Development Centre Ltd. will help 53 unemployed Kings County residents to develop a viable business plan and create self-employment opportunities. Participants will be offered professional development seminars on subjects including strategic planning, income tax, human resource management and contracts and legalities. Participants will also attend a three-day business development seminar on topics such as bookkeeping, financial statements and marketing.

Pre-clearance at Halifax International Airport

More jobs in Kings-Hants

Kings-Hants M.P. Hon. Scott Brison delivered the good news recently that the Canadian and American governments have agreed to extend the Canada-U.S. pre-clearance program to the Halifax International Airport.

Speaking at the Airport, Minister Brison said, "This will be a major boost offering

a huge level of convenience for travellers from Atlantic Canada heading to the United States. The continued expansion will create construction jobs, more travellers passing through the airport, and more job opportunities." The facility is now under construction, and will make the Halifax International Airport the 8th airport in Canada to offer pre-clearance.



Saving Money-

Brison delivers reforms in Public Works to save \$3.5 Billion over 5 years

Budget 2005 incorporates almost \$11 billion in new savings over five years -- achieved primarily from improved efficiencies in government operations -- that will be reinvested in the priorities of Canadians. Kings-Hants MP Scott Brison served as a member of the Expenditure Review

Committee of cabinet that reviewed every expenditure of the federal government in order to identify the savings.

\$3.5 billion of the planned savings came from the Department of Public Works and Government Services, where Minister Scott Brison identified significant efficiencies in federal purchasing, property

management and service delivery.

"I am very proud that my department of Public Works and Government Services will contribute almost a third of the government's target for expenditure review. The bulk of the savings — \$2.5 billion — will come from being smarter in our buying of goods and

services," said Brison. The department will become the main procurement arm of government rather than scattering procurement among the 98 separate departments and agencies of the government. This government-wide corporate approach to purchasing goods and services will mean reduced costs

by harnessing the government's bulk-buying power to get better prices.

Brison said the government is also working to simplify the buying process and to cut the time it takes to procure a good or service in half.

"I get excited when I talk about saving taxpayers money," said Brison.

Brison Delivers 'Greener' Government

- Minister establishes Office of Greening Government



Scott participated in Earth Day events in Ottawa on April 22 where he spoke with Elizabeth May, Executive Director of the Sierra Club of Canada, about his plans for 'greener' government. Ms. May congratulated the Minister for his efforts to promote greener government purchasing.

Earth Day 2005 (April 22nd) was the date chosen by Minister Brison to announce a new Office of Greening Government Operations within the department of Public Works. The office will provide government-wide guidance on such issues as green procurement, green property management, recycling and waste management, and remediation of contaminated sites.

"We want to demonstrate our strong commitment to ensuring sustainable development and environmental protection throughout government operations," said Minister Brison.

The office will facilitate the management of greening government

activities including setting priorities and establishing performance management structures to be used across the government.

"Greening operations throughout the Government of Canada will not just help our environment but will also provide dividends for taxpayers."

"We need to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are reflected in all aspects of our role as a landlord for public servants, as a provider of services to our client departments and agencies, and in our own

internal operations," Brison said.

"Good environmental policy can also be good economic policy," the minister said.

"Greening operations throughout the Government of Canada will not just help our environment but will also provide dividends for taxpayers," he added. PWGSC is already moving to use more alternative fuel or gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles.

Elizabeth May, Executive Director of the environmental group the Sierra Club of Canada, congratulated the minister and said, "Minister Brison is taking important initiatives to ensure that government purchases promote a green agenda."

SCOTT BRISON

SCOTT BRISON, M.P., P.C.,
KINGS-HANTS, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA
Minister of Public Works and Government Services



I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf, making a difference for the people of Kings-Hants and of Canada.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact one of my offices by email, phone, or in person.

Mail to your Member of Parliament can be sent via Canada Post without postage.



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