

## Brown responds to MP's comments

Since 2006, our Conservative Government has provided significant tax relief for Canadian families and individuals. Overall, personal income taxes are now 11 per cent lower, and more than 1 million low-income Canadians have been removed from the tax rolls. The average family of four now receives \$3,220 in extra tax savings each year. Examples of this tax relief includes:

- ? Reducing the GST to 5 per cent from 7 per cent
- ? Increasing the amount that all Canadians can earn without paying federal income tax
- ? Reducing the lowest personal income tax rate to 15 per cent from 16 per cent, and increasing the amount of income that individuals can earn before facing higher tax rates
- ? Introducing the Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) a flexible, registered, general-purpose savings vehicle that allows Canadians to earn tax-free investment income to more easily meet their lifetime savings needs
- ? Introducing the Child Tax Credit, the Children's Fitness Tax Credit and the Children's Arts Tax Credit
- ? Introducing the Registered Disability Savings Plan, a tax-assisted savings account that helps individuals and families save for the long-term financial security of those with a severe disability
- ? Providing \$2.7 billion in additional annual targeted tax relief for seniors and pensioners by increasing the Age Credit and the Pension Income Credit amounts, raising the age limit for maturing savings in Registered Pension Plans and Registered Retirement Savings Plans, and introducing pension income splitting
- ? Providing further support to students and their families by exempting scholarship income from taxation, introducing the Textbook Tax Credit, and making Registered Education Savings Plans more responsive to changing needs
- ? Introducing the Public Transit Tax Credit to encourage public transit use and the Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit to better support communities
- ? Increasing the Age Credit amount by \$1,000 in 2006 and by another \$1,000 in 2009

In total, our government will have provided almost \$160 billion in tax relief for Canadian families and individuals over a six-year period ending in 2013-14. Canadians at all income levels are benefiting with low-and middle-income Canadians receiving proportionately greater relief. Our most recent budget provides additional tax relief that includes expanded relief for home care services and \$76 million in annual tariff relief on baby clothing and sports equipment.

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