

With his government embroiled deeply in the advertising sponsorship scandal, last month's budget has been dubbed by some as Paul Martin's "Trust" budget.

Unfortunately, it's becoming more and more difficult to trust Paul Martin.

During his tenure as finance minister, **Paul Martin increased the federal debt by \$23.1 billion**, all the while claiming to be the great Canadian debt slayer.

Under Paul Martin's watch, spending soared by \$41 billion in seven years and will rise a further \$13 billion over the next two.

While he boasted about lowering taxes, **he in fact raised your taxes 69 times in ten years.**

Canadians want their books balanced. They understand the crippling effect of debt. Canadians know that dealing with debt from yesterday means less money, investment and job growth today.

What they don't want is for their government to chip away at their fundamental services like health care and education, just to watch politicians and bureaucrats fritter away their hard-earned dollars in unimaginably corrupt schemes.

T · H · E BOTTOM LINE

With no less than **13 ongoing RCMP investigations** into the sponsorship scandal, Canadians can be forgiven if "trust" isn't their first response to Paul Martin's budget.

The most cynical feature of the budget was the re-establishment of the Office of the Comptroller General. This was announced with great fanfare by Finance Minister Ralph Goodale, but left Canadians wondering: "Why isn't there one already?"

Paul Martin has had ten years to make this happen, and it took a scandal of epic proportions to convince him that **Canadians don't want their tax dollars wasted.** Unfortunately, even the Comptroller General can **not prevent another Adscam from occurring**, and here's why: The Liberals have, once again,

set up rules that can be bent and twisted to rubberstamp their every whim.

This budget, an attempt by the Liberal government to win your trust, demonstrates the difference between the Liberals and the new Conservative Party of Canada.

After all, Paul Martin's Liberals have continued record spending levels.

Paul Martin's Liberals have been exposed as ripping off the taxpayer in scandal after scandal.

Stephen Harper's Conservative Party is not encumbered by scandal.

You do have a choice:

Stephen Harper's Conservative Party has no obstacle to interfere with providing good, ethical government for the benefit of all Canadians.

Stephen Harper's Conservative Party believes in reducing taxes for the benefit of all Canadians and their families.

Stephen Harper believes that after a decade of Chretien-Martin waste and scandal, Canadians have a right to **demand better.**

*No Postage
Required*

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MAURICE VELLACOTT

**Member of Parliament
for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin
May 2004**

Dear Constituents:

It's time to demand better from Ottawa.

With the government mired in the sponsorship scandal, and fingers pointing in all directions trying to deflect the blame, the Liberals really are on the run.

Some time ago, a poll was released showing that 70% of Canadians think politicians are corrupt. The sponsorship program scandal is a perfect example of why Canadians are cynical with the system and with Ottawa.

Canadians have tolerated the wasteful ways of the Chretien-Martin regime through the HRDC boondoggle, the \$2 billion gun registry and a litany of broken promises, but the flagrant disregard for the will of the taxpayer shown in the Adscam represents the worst of Liberal corruption and arrogance. Your money was taken and spent on a program that was questionable from the outset, and was ultimately funnelled to the pockets of Liberal-friendly advertising agencies without contracts, receipts, a bidding process or proof that any services were provided!

You can be assured that Paul Martin is watching the poll numbers carefully right now. He wants to call an election before too many more details of the sponsorship scandal are brought to light.

The election may still come this spring, and I welcome the challenge. I am proud to represent this constituency. The new Conservative Party of Canada is ready to govern. We have developed policies that represent the will of the majority of honest, hard-working Canadians.

Most importantly, we are not knee-deep in scandal. There is nothing to keep us from our vision of providing Canadians with an honest, accountable government of which we can all be proud.

Sincerely,

Dr. Maurice Vellacott, M.P.

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National Insecurity

The devastating terrorist attack that took place in the central Madrid train station on March 11th reinforced the importance of ensuring public safety in Canada.

The horrors of 9/11 have shown us that terror can strike painfully close to home. Canada is not immune to these global threats.

Given this new reality, it is discouraging that Auditor General Sheila Fraser, in her most recent audit, dedicated an entire chapter entitled, "National Security in Canada - The 2001 Anti-Terrorism Initiative," to the many gaps in Canada's national security framework.

Ms. Fraser observed that, "The government as a whole did not adequately assess intelligence lessons from critical incidents such as

September 11 or develop and follow up on improvement programs."

The Auditor General also found a severe lack of coordination among security agencies and critical weaknesses at airports and border crossings that have not been addressed.

Prime Minister Paul Martin must shoulder much of the responsibility for this dangerous state of affairs. As finance minister, he drastically cut funding to the Canadian security and intelligence agencies that safeguard our national security.

The Liberals have had ten years and the shock of September 11th to take our national security seriously. If that won't shake them out of their complacency, what will?

Key findings of the Auditor General's report:

- The government lacks a framework to focus and prioritize the most important threats.
- Watch lists to screen entrants to Canada are not current or accurate. The audit estimated that Immigration Canada's watch list is missing 8% of wanted terrorists.
- Information on the 25,000 Canadian passports that are lost or stolen every year is not available to front line officers.
- Transport Canada does not have full access to criminal intelligence held by the RCMP when screening airport employees working in controlled-access areas. An estimated 4,500 individuals holding restricted areas clearance at major airports had possible criminal associations.



Corruption at the highest level of government, money-laundering and back-room deals. Sounds more like the plot of a dime-store novel than the running of Canada's democracy.

Even though it's been nearly three months since Auditor General Sheila Fraser tabled her scathing report on the Liberal Sponsorship scandal, Canadians are still no closer to knowing what happened to \$100 million of their tax dollars that vanished from under Paul Martin's nose.

When the scandal broke, an outraged Paul Martin stood before reporters pledging swift and decisive action to get to the bottom of the scandal. He promised Canadians a full and open public inquiry to find out what was known, by whom, and when.

It's now three months after the Auditor General's indictment of his government, and for all of Paul Martin's bluster, his vaunted public inquiry won't even start hearing wit-

nesses until September. However, the Public Accounts Committee, headed by Conservative MP John Williams, started hearings on the scandal immediately, and has already heard from over a dozen witnesses, including former public works ministers Alfonso Gagliano and David Dingwall as well as Jean Chrétien's former Chief of Staff Jean Pelletier, former VIA Rail Chief Marc LeFrançois and former Canada Post president André Ouellet.

Despite quick action from the Conservatives, the Liberal dominated committee has done nothing but obstruct attempts to get to the bottom of where your \$100 million went.

During his testimony, former Liberal cabinet minister Alfonso Gagliano continued the now familiar trend of frustrating the committee by refusing to provide any straight answers to questions. He also provided testimony that was eventually contradicted by other witnesses, like Huguette Tremblay, the former assistant to Chuck Guité, the disgraced bureaucrat at the centre of the sponsorship scandal.

Mr. Gagliano abdicated total responsibility of the Adscam affair and claimed that as the minister of public works, he had no idea what was going on in his department. These claims

fell on deaf ears and caused Conservative Party MP, Diane Ablonczy, to tell him, "I hate to say this, but I'll tell you something. I don't believe you and I'll tell you something else. Canadians don't believe you."

While a parade of former ministers and presidents of crown corporations appear before the committee, saying they saw nothing, heard nothing and knew nothing, Paul Martin has instructed the Liberal MPs who dominate the committee to delay, obstruct and stall the proceedings at every opportunity.

Instead of the transparency he promised, Paul Martin has launched thinly veiled attacks against Conservative members, which have included questioning the integrity of the Public Accounts committee chair, Conservative MP John Williams. He has also sent out his henchman, Treasury Board president Reg Alcock in a blatant attempt to mislead the public on the size of the scandal.

As the days drag on, it's becoming clear that Paul Martin doesn't want to uncover the truth. Although he's promised you openness and transparency, he's giving you stonewalling, denials and secrecy in the hopes that it can all be swept under the rug before the next election.

The Conservatives represent real change

The following excerpt is from Stephen Harper, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada's, reply to the budget, given in the House of Commons on March 24, 2004.

If Canadians are looking for change, and I believe that they are, they are not going to find it in a bunch of recycled, ten year old promises from this Prime Minister. They are only going to find change by changing the government.

Only a new Conservative government will change the way tax dollars are treated.

Only a new Conservative government will return

integrity to the political process.

Only a new Conservative government will put dollars in the pockets of Canadians, rather than in the pockets of ad firms.

Only a new Conservative government will transfer gas taxes to infrastructure projects in all corners of Canada.

Only a new Conservative government will give rural

communities and rural livelihoods the respect they deserve.

Only a new Conservative government will protect children and respect families.

Only a new Conservative government will restore funding to our armed forces.

Only a new Conservative government will eliminate, not just cut, the air tax.

Only a new Conservative government will stop the EI rip-off.

We will do these things, and more, because we are not encumbered by scandal. We will do these things, and more, because we are not encumbered by ten years of mismanagement. We can do these things, and more, because we do not have to prove to Canadians that we can manage their money.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Please take the time to tell us which of these issues matter most to you.

- Agriculture
- Scandals and Ethics
- Defence
- Marriage and Family
- National Security
- Wasteful Spending
- Taxes
- National Debt
- Environment
- Crime
- Other _____

Name _____

Address: _____

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