



Faces of the Cuts: The Impact of Federal Program Cuts on Communities in Toronto

An Early Look at Selected Areas Slated for Funding Cuts

Forum Convened by
Community Social Planning Council of Toronto

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Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the dozens of individuals and organizations that, in very short order, walked us through the slated federal cuts and their meaning for Toronto communities. It is our hope that this initial look at the cuts will help us collectively begin to understand their impact and provide a resource for organizing to restore funding in key areas of concern to communities in Toronto and across Canada.

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Introduction

On September 25, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Treasury Board President John Baird announced \$1 billion in federal program cuts to be implemented over two years. At the same time that cuts to youth employment, literacy organizations, women's groups, Aboriginal health initiatives, and other equity-relevant programs were announced, the federal government also reported a staggering \$13.2 billion surplus.

In the wake of the announced cuts, many affected groups have begun to organize in their respective sectors, and on a national basis. The Community Social Planning Council of Toronto convened today's forum to bring together local communities and organizations across sectors and issues to share information, and discuss and strategize around the proposed cuts and related federal actions. In preparation for this forum, the Council surveyed affected organizations, contacted federal departments and gathered together information from media reports and other communications to assemble this report.

Focusing on selected areas, the report paints only part of the picture of the cuts and its impact on Toronto communities. With limited time and resources, we focused on key issues identified through our membership and networks. Undoubtedly, there are many additional areas of concern to Torontonians.

What's Happening in Parliament

- While the cuts are slated for the 07-08 and 08-09 fiscal years, beginning April 1, 2007, the announcement is having immediate impacts on programming and funding decisions.
- Main estimates reflecting the cuts will be brought to the House of Commons for a vote in the Spring of 2007. Because the estimates relate to the budget, the government would very likely consider motions on the estimates as confidence motions. If any of these motions fail, it will trigger a federal election.
- Minister Bev Oda (responsible for Status of Women Canada (SWC)) was questioned by the Standing Committee on the Status of Women on October 5 at a televised meeting. The committee challenged the rationale behind the cuts to SWC and changes to the funding mandate of Status of Women Canada. NDP MP Irene Mathyssen called for Ms. Oda's resignation as Minister responsible for Status of Women Canada.
- At the October 5 meeting of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, NDP MP Tony Martin put forward a successful motion calling for committee business to be suspended until hearings are held on the impact of the cuts to Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC). The committee will hold a televised meeting on October 19 to question senior officials regarding funding cuts to HRSDC. Hearings with stakeholder groups are planned for October 31 and November 2. Groups are also invited to submit commentary including formal briefs, letters, fact sheets and other correspondence. For more information, contact MP Tony Martin's office at (613) 992-9723.

The Road Ahead

Agency staff raised three broad concerns:

1) Poor Communication, Targeted Cuts with Little Concern about Impacts. Many community agencies commented on how cuts were made without consultation or concern for the impact on marginalized communities. A number of agencies directly affected by the cuts found out through the Treasury Board's website. Agencies also commented on how the cuts targeted the non-profit sector generally, and marginalized groups specifically including women, Aboriginal people, racialized groups, immigrants, LGBT communities, and people with disabilities. Clear rationales for how programs were deemed "ineffective" were not provided. In some cases, agencies were unclear about which programs would be affected since detailed information on individual programs had not been provided. The regional impact was also not made clear. As well, some Ministers' offices and departments had not responded to calls.

2) The Democratic Deficit. During their election campaign, the Conservative Party chastised the former government for its democratic deficit and promised to create 'a new democracy' in Canada. Instead the Conservative Government's recent program cuts, as well as, changes to the funding mandate of Status of Women Canada are working to silence dissenting and marginalized voices.

Democracy is not simply casting a ballot every four years. In a democracy, it is essential that governments create avenues for the meaningful participation of community members, particularly those with the greatest barriers to engaging in the democratic process. Policy research provides a means for conveying the experiences and perspectives of community members, particularly those most marginalized, and helps to enlighten policy makers and create an informed electorate. Advocacy activities provide a forum for advancing the rights of disenfranchised groups. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms enshrines the rights of Canadians. However without resources to test the constitutionality of questionable legislation that may violate those cherished rights, the Charter's power is seriously eroded. Cuts to policy and research initiatives, elimination of the Court Challenges Program and the banning of Status of Women Canada funding for research and advocacy activities ensure a greater democratic deficit in Canada.

3) This is Just the Beginning. While this first round of cuts is deeply concerning to many, agencies predict it is only just the beginning. Many groups fear deeper and broader cuts will be on the horizon, particularly if the Conservatives were to form a majority government after the next election. In her recent analysis of federal spending, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives senior economist Ellen Russell points out that the Conservatives will need to find more than \$17 billion to cover their agenda, including promised tax cuts and increased spending on defence, in the current fiscal year alone. This does not bode well for the future of social and equity-seeking programs.

Slated Funding Cuts: Selected Areas

ADULT LEARNING, LITERACY AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

The Adult Learning, Literacy and Essential Skills Program (ALLESP) is funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC). It is a program that assists not only adult learners throughout the country, but teachers and tutors as well, in the form of training, professional development, curriculum development, research and knowledge exchange on best teaching practices. The network of literacy and learning coalitions that have been built up around this funding has enabled thousands of adults in the Greater Toronto Area and surroundings to continue their education by upgrading their reading and writing skills. Many literacy organizations help those from marginalized backgrounds, such as single mothers, underemployed individuals, persons on social assistance, immigrants and Aboriginal people.

According to 2005 figures from Statistics Canada and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 4 out of 10 adult Canadians have low literacy levels. It has also been found that lower literacy rates correlate to lower employment rates and employment earnings – factors that compromise people's quality of life and restrict their contribution to the economy.

\$17.7 MILLION CUT

As part of the \$1 billion Conservative program cuts, local and regional literacy organizations that conduct capacity building initiatives, research and knowledge exchange, and promotion and awareness work will now stand to lose their HRSDC funding – a total of \$17.7 million dollars over the next two years (\$5.8 million in 2006-2007, and \$11.92 million in 2007-2008). Although proposals have already been submitted, no funds will be allocated to current applicants of the 2006 ALLESP local and regional call for proposals. This local and regional stream of the ALLESP has been cancelled.

The government has designated the literacy cut under the heading of "Value for Money", that is to say, "funding for third parties to further their interests or programs that are not effective, do not achieve results or are being refocused or targeted for improvement." HRSDC plans to instead focus on its national ALLESP funding stream.

Ironically, just a few weeks prior to the federal program cuts announcement, the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Diane Finley celebrated International Literacy Day on September 8th, by encouraging Canadians to upgrade their literacy skills. When questioned by reporters about the cuts to adult literacy, Conservative MP John Baird responded that the government's efforts must focus on child literacy. Responding to the question of adult literacy, Minister Baird remarked: "This is repair work after the fact. We've got to [have a] much greater focus on ensuring we get it right from the get-go, with the first \$20 billion, rather than doing it after the fact."

HOW WILL THE CUTS AFFECT COMMUNITIES?

Since literacy falls into the category of education, many direct service agencies running literacy programs receive provincial funds from bodies such as the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities or school boards, and therefore may not see any funding cuts to their programs. This provincial money is often exhausted by agencies to provide the bare necessities in order for the program to run, such as providing a physical space, teaching materials, and instructors. However, the mounting fear is that these cuts will harm quality of service and the ability for adult learners to effectively take part in literacy programs, as those who will be hardest hit are literacy networks and coalitions. These coalitions, such as the Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy and the Ontario Literacy Coalition, play a substantial role in supporting direct service agencies, by providing essential services such as training for tutors and teachers, developing resource and learning materials, program development, advocacy, and research. Direct service agencies often do not have the proper resources to perform these fundamental tasks and therefore depend on coalitions for this assistance.

**"Many years of hard work and much money have gone into building these networks and coalitions...which have proven to work and benefit many. Now it is under the threat of collapse. The government is going in the wrong direction. [Shutting down] such networks, leaves practitioners and agencies isolated, instead of working together."
-Literacy Worker**

Because Canada is behind other industrialized nations by not having a National Literacy Strategy, the coalitions and networks have been acting as the string holding together Canada's patchwork of literacy programs and services. The funding provided by HRSDC has greatly contributed to building a strong network of agencies and coalitions to help support adult learners in developing their literacy skills. The cut in funding will only erode this support network, therein isolating service providers and practitioners in our communities, hindering both knowledge exchange and the promotion of literacy in Canada.

CANADIAN POLICY RESEARCH NETWORKS

Founded in 1994, Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN) brings together governments, unions, corporations, NGOs, voluntary organizations, academics, and other think tanks to form networks of users and researchers in four key areas: family, health, public involvement and work. CPRN's mission is to create knowledge and lead public dialogue and debate on social and economic issues important to the well-being of Canadians. Their goal is to help make Canada a more just, prosperous, and caring society.

Since CPRN opened its doors, thousands of people have participated in their roundtables, workshops, dialogues and advisory committee meetings. Hundreds of researchers from more than 20 universities have taken part in their research projects. CPRN produces comprehensive, critical and insightful analysis on a large range of policy issues. With 1.6 million downloads of their reports and publications each year, CPRN is an important source of policy information.

Social Development Canada, a former federal department which merged with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to form Human Resources and Social Development Canada, provided funding to CPRN in the past. **In its 2005 external evaluation of CPRN, Social Development Canada offered these words:**

- "There is significant support for the policy research provided by the CPRN. CPRN is viewed as occupying an independent and neutral policy niche in the spectrum of research institutes that makes it a unique and valued source of information."
- "The evidence points to the conclusion that CPRN has been successful in meeting its objective of informing the development of social and economic policy...the greatest influence of the CPRN was on the government, academic and non-governmental sectors."
- "Where CPRN is most effective is in influencing how policy makers think about problems ... CPRN has been effective at bringing forward the social agenda on many issues, for example the idea that the government should make social as well as economic investments in children's policy."
- "CPRN's research is viewed as high quality and objective by those accessing the material. Approximately 92% of online survey users responding (n=907) rated the overall quality of CPRN's research information as high or very high, and 83% rated CPRN's academic standards or rigour as high or very high."

**Words of Praise
prior to the cut:
"Let me offer you my
sincere
congratulations for
CPRN's record of
success. In the
decade since its
founding, your
organization has
earned a reputation
as one of Canada's
leading sources of
high quality,
evidence-based policy
research. I can
attest, first hand, to
the influence of your
publications on policy
development across
the civil service."
- Senior Federal
Government Manager**

\$3 MILLION CUT

In direct contradiction to the federal department's own outstanding evaluation of CPRN, the government has announced a \$3 million cut to the Network, which will result in the elimination of CPRN's most recent federal grant. The cut falls under the heading "Value for Money". According to the federal government's document, this includes "programs that weren't providing good value for money for Canadians".

HOW WILL THE CUTS AFFECT COMMUNITIES?

In a recent letter, CPRN President Sharon Manson Singer assures stakeholders that CPRN will continue with its important work. It is unclear how CPRN will make up for the current funding loss and what impact this may have on specific projects such as how they will be funded or whether they may be delayed or cancelled due to the cuts.

The funding cut to CPRN reflects a broader trend. Many of the federal government's cuts focus on programs and agencies engaged in research and policy analysis, work that informs how policy makers and the community understand and approach social issues and issues of equity. The funding cut to CPRN represents another instance where support for enhancing public awareness and promoting democratic debate is being undermined.

CANADIAN VOLUNTEERISM INITIATIVE

The Canadian Volunteerism Initiative (CVI) is a pan-Canadian program whose goals are to encourage Canadians to volunteer, improve the capacity of organizations to involve volunteers, and enhance the experience of volunteering. Through the CVI, the Department of Canadian Heritage provides funding to volunteer initiatives at local, regional and national levels. Volunteer Canada and Imagine Canada, two national non-profit organizations, are responsible for delivering the CVI. CVI supports national and local initiatives to attract, engage and retain volunteers, access research on volunteerism, understand barriers and motivation to volunteering, access information, tools and development opportunities, network and share information on best practices in volunteer management, and try out and adopt innovative models for involving volunteers.

CVI funds support three national initiatives: 1) Imagine Canada's Knowledge Development Centre which funds community-based and national research to build the body of knowledge on volunteering and volunteerism in Canada; 2) Volunteer Canada's Community Support Centre develops and tests new and innovative methods for sustaining volunteerism by funding demonstration projects undertaken by local, provincial or national voluntary organizations or local/provincial volunteer centres, and 3) Information, Capacity Building and Awareness Centre supports the ongoing development and maintenance of the national website for volunteering, conducts capacity work in collaboration with local networks, and develops resources on innovative practices in volunteer program management that support local voluntary organizations, and run three national awareness campaigns that encourage volunteering and recognize the contributions of volunteers in Canada. Through CVI funding, Volunteer Canada produces outreach materials used by community agencies to attract new volunteers to community agencies.

Volunteer Toronto, the volunteer centre for the GTA, is an active member of the national networks that CVI funds. Through effective partnerships innovations for management and support of volunteers and program development is possible. An innovative program funded by Heritage Canada developed by Volunteer Toronto to address the barriers and gaps for newcomers and civic engagement has been abruptly cancelled as a result of the federal cuts.

Recently funded CVI projects include the Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association's Chinese Youth Learning and Volunteer Program. Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association is a charitable, non-profit community agency located in Scarborough which provides a range of services to seniors, people with disabilities and individuals with special needs, and is a predominant senior service provider for the Chinese community. Carefirst's Chinese Youth Learning and Volunteer Program promoted volunteerism among

Chinese youth, particularly new Canadians. The project benefited Chinese seniors while connecting newcomer youth with the community and helping them to develop life and job skills. As well, it was the stepping stone for further development of Carefirst's youth volunteer program and helped the organization access additional funds to support this work.

Frontier College is national organization that engages and mobilizes volunteers to take action in the cause of literacy and learning. Past national VSI-funded projects based in Toronto include Frontier College's Youth Volunteer Management Interns program. CVI provided funding to hire 23 Youth Volunteer Management Interns in 20 sites across the country. Youth developed important leadership skills and volunteer management experience through this CVI-funded program. Frontier College also recently received CVI research funding through Imagine Canada to develop the Knowledge Mobilization in Youth Led Groups project. The project focuses on creating sustainable models to share leadership ideas, information and experiences in a youth driven project and will result in the development of tools for workshops and planning specifically with youth-led groups.

\$9.744 MILLION CUT RESULTING IN THE ELIMINATION OF SUPPORT TO THE CANADIAN VOLUNTEERISM INITIATIVE

The federal government deemed the CVI a non-core program and announced the elimination of support for it with a cut of \$9.744 million. CVI funds that supported national and local volunteer initiatives, volunteer outreach and innovative research will no longer be available.

HOW WILL THE CUTS AFFECT COMMUNITIES?

According to the 2004 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, almost 12 million Canadians or 45% of the population over 15 years of age volunteered during the one-year period preceding the survey. Volunteers contributed almost 2 billion hours, an amount equivalent to 1 million full time jobs. In Toronto's cash-strapped community sector, volunteers are critical to our activities. Without volunteers, the sector would be hard pressed to deliver many of its essential programs and services to the community. Despite the extent of volunteer involvement in Canada and its importance to organizations and communities across the country, the federal government has deemed the CVI a non-core program, and eliminated its funding.

**"Volunteerism is definitely a core value as demonstrated by the 12 million people who reported that they volunteered. It is likely more volunteer as many do no see coaching their kid's soccer team, helping the senior down the block or baking for a sale at the local community centre as volunteering---it is! Volunteering is a strong thread that weaves throughout the tapestry of a vibrant and healthy community. Without support from all levels of government the threads of our community begin to unravel. Volunteering must be supported."
- Volunteer Organization Director**

According to CEO of Imagine Canada Georgina Steinsky-Schwartz, over 60% of CVI funding was distributed to small non-profit agencies across Canada to support their volunteer initiatives. Without VSI funding, projects like Volunteer Toronto's newcomer and civic engagement initiative, Carefirst's Chinese Youth Learning and Volunteer Program and Frontier College's innovative youth-oriented initiatives may not have gotten off the ground. Withdrawal of funding has abruptly ended Volunteer Toronto's initiative. Research and knowledge transfer assist the voluntary sector to better attract and retain committed volunteers, thereby improving programs and services to communities.

COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM

The Court Challenges Program (CCP) funds court cases that challenge laws which may violate human rights. It was established in 1978 to provide funding for individuals and groups to advance language rights. Following the introduction of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982, the program was expanded to include equality rights test cases. The rationale behind the program lies in the fact that access to justice requires significant financial resources which are beyond the reach of most individuals and groups, particularly those most marginalized. Without financial support to test the constitutionality of questionable laws, constitutional rights are only protected for the wealthy that have the resources to access the courts.

The CCP has supported several important challenges. Some examples relate to the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act redress, Employment Insurance benefit rules that discriminated against parents of children with disability, same-sex marriage, a decision by VIA Rail to purchase used rail cars that were not accessible, and voting in federal prisons. This program has also enabled many community-based agencies to undertake court challenges regarding laws and policies that negatively affect racialized communities, immigrants and refugees, and other disadvantaged groups in Canada. By contributing to the cost of important test case litigation, CCP has made Canadian constitutional rights accessible. CCP gives people that are economically and socially marginalized an opportunity to challenge laws that create or intensify inequality.

It is important to note that even in cases where equity-seeking applicants were not successful, the cases often helped to advance equality rights by promoting legislative change. For example in the Egan case, a gay couple challenged the constitutionality of the provision of federal benefits that were denied same-sex couples but provided to opposite sex couples. While the case was not successful, it did advance the rights of same-sex couples, leading federal government to reconsider and alter its legislation.

\$5.6 MILLION CUT RESULTING IN THE ELIMINATION OF THE CCP

As part of the \$1 billion program cuts, the Conservative Government announced the elimination of CCP funding.

HOW WILL THE CUTS AFFECT COMMUNITIES?

The elimination of the CCP affects us all. It affects everyone that believes in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and that seeks to build equality in Canada. Without the CCP, most community members, except for the wealthy, have no means to challenge laws that may be discriminatory and in violation of constitutional rights. Elimination of the CCP seriously erodes the power of the Charter to protect disenfranchised individuals and groups.

Toronto is home to a large number of diverse and multicultural communities. The city has the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community in the country, if not the world. Nearly one-quarter of Toronto's population lives in poverty, disproportionately affecting racialized groups, women, children, and immigrants. Realization of equality rights in Toronto is key to the success and progress of our city. Elimination of the CCP is a major step backwards in the fight for equality rights in Toronto and across the country.

Many community legal clinics and organizations in Toronto have used the CCP to advance equality rights in Canada. The Advocacy Centre for the Elderly was able to conduct research and undertake issues affecting vulnerable Canadians. The Income Security Advocacy Centre received funding to organize national consultations among activists and lawyers on litigation strategies for addressing poverty law issues. Without CCP funding, the Metro Toronto Chinese and Southeast Asian Community Legal Clinic would not have been able to launch its class action lawsuit with respect to the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act. With the elimination of the CCP, the federal government is sending a very troubling message to Canadians, particularly members of marginalized groups.

"[CCP] is important for the health of our democracy. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms means nothing if the very groups that it is designed to protect have no access to the enforcement mechanisms and no resources to allow them to speak to the court about how government programs or actions affect their equality rights."
- Community Legal Services Lawyer

FIRST NATIONS & INUIT TOBACCO CONTROL STRATEGY

The tobacco smoking rates in First Nations and Inuit communities are nearly double that of the Canadian average. This has a considerable impact on the health of Aboriginal peoples and communities as they are more likely to be at risk of developing respiratory and heart disease. In fact, the Canadian Cancer Society has found cancer to be the leading cause of death for Aboriginal peoples. These rates also affect the quality of health of non-smokers who may be exposed to second-hand smoke. In response to this alarming crisis, the federal government created the First Nations & Inuit Tobacco Control Strategy program in 2002. Its goal was to reduce the high rate of tobacco misuse and addiction in Aboriginal communities by developing culturally-sensitive and effective smoking prevention programs and awareness campaigns to ameliorate their quality of life. This program provides funding to primarily on-reserve programs in the South and both on- and off-reserve programs in the North.

\$10.8 MILLION CUT RESULTING IN THE ELIMINATION OF THE FIRST NATIONS & INUIT TOBACCO CONTROL STRATEGY

The Conservative Government has decided to cut \$10.8 million from the program over the next two years. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty claimed, "That's a program that didn't work. It just didn't work effectively in reducing the incidence of the use of tobacco." However, figures from Health Canada show a three percent drop in smoking rates among Aboriginal people, from 62% in 1999, to 59% in 2003 after the program was introduced. It would be presumptuous to deem a program to be ineffective when evidence points to the contrary. MP John Baird told reporters that a replacement program would be introduced but provided no details regarding funding levels or timing.

HOW WILL THE CUTS AFFECT COMMUNITIES?

While the elimination of the program does not directly affect Aboriginal communities in Toronto, knowledge developed through this program may have indirectly benefited local communities. The elimination of the program, particularly without a replacement program in place, may undo much of the work that has been done over the years on creating awareness and supports for change. National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Phil Fontaine voiced his frustration by noting that all other non-Aboriginal tobacco control strategies had been left untouched: "We're the only community that has been targeted this way." This has been just another setback for the First Nations people, as the Conservative Government has, prior to this, abandoned the Kelowna Accord, and refused to sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**"[with all other tobacco control strategies left untouched] ... We see it as discriminatory. We are asking ourselves if this government really cares about First Nations."
- Phil Fontaine,
National Chief of
the Assembly of
First Nations**

LAW COMMISSION OF CANADA

The Law Commission of Canada (LCC) is an independent agency that advises Parliament on how to modernize and improve legislation. In order to ensure that laws are relevant, responsive, effective, equally accessible to all, and just, the LCC engages with Canadians from all walks of life in its consideration of our laws. It is accountable to the Parliament of Canada through the Minister of Justice. The LCC has developed ideas on how to improve legislation across a broad range of areas including electoral reform, Aboriginal governance, age discrimination, security issues, globalization, child abuse and marginalized workers.

In a recent press release, Acting Executive Director Lorraine Pelot detailed the LCC's strong research track record over the past nine years:

- In 2000, in response to a request from the Department of Justice, the Law Commission tabled a report aptly titled *Restoring Dignity: Responding to Child Abuse in Canadian Institutions*;
- In 2002, *Beyond Conjuality: Recognizing and supporting close personal adult relationships*, recommended that Parliament re-examine the personal relationships between adults, extend rights and obligations beyond conjugal relationships, and remove restrictions on same sex marriage;
- In 2003, *Transforming Relationships Through Participatory Justice*, has since inspired a provincial bar to adopt the Law Commission's model as a plan of action;
- In 2004, the Law Commission tabled its report *Voting Counts: Electoral Reform for Canada*, recommending mixed member proportionality. At the same time, it was completing two other reports, *Leveraging Knowledge Assets*, dealing with security interests in intellectual property, and *Modernizing Canada's Secured Transactions Law: The Bank Act Security Provisions*, which deals with reforms to the *Bank Act*;
- In July 2006, the Law Commission's latest report, *In Search of Security: The Future of Policing in Canada*, proposes a strategy to better understand and deal with the complex relationships between public police and private security.

She also provided an account of the LCC's current research program:

- *Globalization* examines new tools of governance to enhance democracy, transparency and accountability given the increasing impact on Canadian law of norms adopted in international fora;
- *What is a Crime?* reflects upon the definition of and response to crime and unwanted behaviour;

- *Indigenous Legal Traditions* explores a framework for creating space and recognition of indigenous legal traditions;
- *Is Work Working?* evaluates the various policy and regulatory options available to ensure adequate and appropriate support for the promotion of economic security of those engaged in work in the broad sense of the term;
- *Does Age Matter?* looks at a possible framework to verify if age is the best criterion to provide benefits or impose restrictions in law;
- *Financing on Reserves* addresses the issue of equitable access to financial resources for those living on First Nations reserves.

With the elimination of the LCC, the future of this important law reform work is in jeopardy.

\$4.194 MILLION CUT RESULTING IN THE ELIMINATION OF THE LAW COMMISSION OF CANADA

The Conservative Government announced the complete elimination of funding for the LCC.

HOW WILL THE CUTS AFFECT COMMUNITIES?

The LCC through its engagement with the public, including marginalized communities, has offered thoughtful, critical analysis and put forward important recommendations for improving Canadian legislation that affects us all. While the law affects us all, people of Canada do not have equal access to shaping the laws of the country. The LCC offered an avenue for community members to have input into law reform. The elimination of funding to the LCC will seriously hamper the ways in which ordinary Canadians can take part in the process of law reform, resulting in a more exclusionary process.

Current LCC projects are in jeopardy. Each of the areas under study speaks to the needs of marginalized and disenfranchised communities. Loss of comprehensive studies that inform legislative change debates represents a further silencing of diverse opinion within our political system.

“The LCC provides us with a forum to engage in meaningful and thoughtful discussions about various areas of law and their impact on real lives of Canadians. As of the time the LCC was eliminated, it was examining issues such as the changing nature of work and employment relations, and how vulnerable workers are being left out of the employment standards regime at the provincial level. LCC was also looking at the issue of globalization and its impact on Canadian law. These studies will now be halted, thanks to the Conservative’s decision to eliminate its funding.”

- Community Legal Services Lawyer

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

The Social Development Partnerships Program (SDPP) provides funding to non-profit organizations, educational institutions, research institutes, and professional associations working to meet the social development needs of persons with disabilities, children and their families, and other vulnerable or excluded populations in Canada.

The SDPP provides support to projects in the areas of disability, early learning and child care and social inclusion. Funded activities include: generating knowledge on emerging social issues; disseminating information and knowledge and increasing public awareness; establishing and maintaining sustainable partnerships, alliances, networks and collaborations; and participating in public dialogue/consultations. Grants are also provided to strengthen the capacity of national non-profit organizations in the areas of governance, policy and program development, community outreach, organizational administration and management.

SDPP contributions also support Understanding the Early Years (UEY), a national initiative that enables members of communities across Canada to better understand the needs of their young children and families so that they can determine the best programs and services to meet those needs. The focus of UEY is community capacity building using local information on young children. The broad objectives of UEY are to strengthen the capacity of communities to use quality local information to help them make decisions to enhance children's lives; and enable community members to work together to address the needs of children.

Organizations that have received funding through SDPP include: Association francophone à l'éducation des services à l'enfance de l'Ontario, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Canada, Campaign 2000, Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs, Canadian Association of the Deaf, Canadian Childcare Advocacy Association of Canada, Canadian Childcare Federation, Canadian Community Economic Development Network, Canadian Council on Social Development, Canadian Policy Research Networks, Carleton University, Child Care Connections – NS, Child Welfare League of Canada, Community Foundations of Canada, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto, Concordia University, Conference Board of Canada, Early Childhood Development Association of PEI, Family Services Canada, Mawiw Council Incorporated, National Youth in Care Network, University of Toronto, University of Victoria, Université du Québec en Outaouais, Université Laval, Vanier Institute of Family, YWCA of Canada, YWCA of Greater Toronto.

\$13.8 MILLION CUT

The federal government announced a cut of \$13.8 million to SDPP. It is expected that the majority of the cut will affect the UEY program, resulting in a decrease of funded sites from 100 to 50. The early learning and child care, and social inclusion funding streams will be consolidated into one child and family funding stream and be cut by \$2 million. As well, it is anticipated that there will be a cut to federal government staff working in this area.

HOW WILL THE CUTS AFFECT COMMUNITIES?

Organizations that have received SDPP funding in the past expect to see an impact on future calls for proposals due to the cuts. In addition, researchers and organizations anticipate and are concerned about shifting priorities for the program. Much of the research and program activities funded by SDPP has supported important child care work in Canada. Given the Conservative Government's rejection of universal child care as a priority, many worry that the future of child care research and action will be put in jeopardy.

At present, the funding for the Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU) in Toronto runs out at the end of March 2007. The CRRU has been funded by SDPP and its predecessor programs since the mid-1980s. It provides educational resources; consults on child care policy; contributes to public education on child care; supports and carries out research projects; and publishes its research results. The CRRU plays an integral role in policy development by anticipating the need for information on particular issues; collecting, organizing, packaging and disseminating information; keeping up-to-date on developments related to programs, research, and policy in the child care field; facilitating communication among people involved in the development of child care; interpreting research and policy materials in a form useful for people with an interest in child care in Canada; undertaking research and evaluation; and supporting and consulting with others involved in these activities. Despite its 20-year track record of producing rigorous, insightful and useful work, the CRRU's future is uncertain.

“The negative effect on organizations and researchers in the community may not be due only to the cuts. Aspects of the program can be manipulated, for example, by not putting out a request for proposals or changing the terms and conditions for funding.”
- Researcher

In Toronto, tens of thousands of families lack affordable, high quality child care. Research and program activities funded through SDPP have contributed to political and community understanding and awareness of early learning and child care issues. It is critical that this program maintains its funding and focus.

STATUS OF WOMEN CANADA

Status of Women Canada (SWC) is a federal government agency, which promotes gender equality, and the full participation of women in economic, social, cultural and political life of the country. SWC focuses its work in three areas: improving women's economic autonomy and well being, eliminating systemic violence against women and children, and advancing women's human rights. The Women's Program is a grants and contribution program within SWC which has provided funding to women's organizations and equality-seeking groups since 1973. SWC was established in recognition of systemic discrimination and the need for systemic advocacy to advance women's rights.

\$5 MILLION REDUCTION, REFLECTING 38.5% CUT TO SWC OPERATING BUDGET PROHIBIT FUNDING FOR ADVOCACY, LOBBYING OR GENERAL RESEARCH OPEN FUNDING TO FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ELIMINATION OF "WOMEN'S EQUALITY" FROM SWC'S GOALS

The Conservative Government announced a cut of \$5 million to SWC administrative costs, reflecting a 38.5% cut to its operating budget. In addition, the federal government introduced new funding guidelines for SWC which prohibits funding for organizations that conduct advocacy, lobbying and general research. The new funding guidelines took effect on September 27, 2006 and apply until September 27, 2011. For-profit organizations are now eligible to apply for funding through the Women's Program. In addition, the government removed "women's equality" from SWC's stated goals.

After seven months as the Status of Women Minister, MP Bev Oda made her first appearance to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women on October 5. Opposition members of the committee challenged the Minister on the government's cuts and changes to SWC. Describing the new focus for the department, Minister Oda identified mentoring and skills training programs as types of programs that SWC would look to fund in the future.

**"That makes it very difficult, because if you don't lobby and you don't advocate, you're not going to make systemic changes."
- Alia Hogben,
Executive Director of
the Canadian
Council of Muslim
Women**

HOW WILL THE CUTS AFFECT COMMUNITIES?

The Conservative Government's broad changes to SWC will deeply undermine advocacy efforts to advance the rights of women in Canada. Many national women's organizations previously funded through the Women's Program will either lose their funding or have to profoundly shift their mandates, abandoning their pursuit of systemic change. Early indications suggest that loss of Women's Program funding will put the survival of many women's organizations in jeopardy. The cuts and changes to SWC will work to silence voices for women's equality, contributing greatly to the mounting democratic deficit in Canada.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

The federal government's Youth Employment Strategy helps young Canadians (aged 15 to 30) obtain career information, develop skills, find good jobs and stay employed. This national strategy offers a broad range of initiatives under three programs: Skills Link which helps young people who face more barriers to employment than others, including high school dropouts, single parents, Aboriginal youth, young persons with disabilities, youth in rural areas or recent immigrants; Summer Work Experience which helps secondary and post-secondary students find summer jobs; and Career Focus which helps post-secondary graduates develop advanced skills and find careers in their fields.

Within the Summer Work Experience program, the federal government offers Summer Career Placements (SCP). SCP provide wage subsidies to private, public and not-for-profit sector employers to create career-related summer jobs for students. The program plays an important role in creating meaningful employment and skills development for youth. It is the government's main engine of student job creation. Many non-profit organizations hire students through SCP that they could not afford to otherwise.

\$55.4 MILLION CUT

The federal government announced a \$55.4 million cut to youth employment programs. The specific programs affected by the cut were not detailed in the government's announcement. As well, calls to Human Resources and Social Development Canada and the SCP office were not returned. However, comments from Conservative MPs in the House of Commons suggest that SCP will be affected. Responding to questions regarding youth employment cuts, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Diane Finley remarked: "When the summer career placement program was brought in eight years ago, it was intended to help students who could not find jobs easily. Over eight years of Liberal government, that program just went crazy, so that corporations that could well afford to hire students and would have hired them without the program were hiring students." She also commented: "There is no point in subsidizing job creation in the major centres like Calgary. We want to help students who face real challenges because of where they live, perhaps in rural or small communities, or other barriers." As a "major centre", it is unclear how Toronto will be affected by SCP reductions. MP John Baird also remarked: "The program will not be reduced right across the country."

HOW WILL THE CUTS AFFECT COMMUNITIES?

According to information gathered by Liberal MP Geoff Regan's office, they anticipate that \$10 million will be cut in the first year and \$45 million in the second. If the cuts focus solely on SCP, it will result in the program being cut in half with the loss of 22,000 student placements. It is also our understanding that the Conservative Government will focus its remaining youth employment resources on high crime areas, Aboriginal youth and areas of high unemployment.

Cuts to youth employment programs in Toronto will seriously affect both youth and non-profit community agencies. Youth will have fewer avenues for gaining employment and developing new skills. The federal government appears to be moving in the opposite direction as the provincial and municipal government. In response to gun violence in Toronto, both Premier Dalton McGuinty and Mayor David Miller have introduced youth employment initiatives. In contrast, the federal government has announced substantial cuts.

Many community agencies expressed great concerns regarding the loss of SCP as they relied on youth employment and did not have funds to maintain these summer positions. Among Toronto agencies that responded to our questionnaire, students hired through SCP worked on a range of important and challenging issues including environmental protection issues, employment and skills training, client intake, law reform, youth programs, community drop-in, community-based research, income security issues, multilingual service provision, children's camps and leadership programs.

Loss of SCP and other youth employment opportunities will be a loss for youth, non-profit agencies and the communities that benefit from their programs and services.

"Many of our current staff were hired through this program into full time work. The program allows us to expand our workforce in an affordable manner. It allows us to live up to our mission goal of building leadership and keeps our staff pool young, as we often hire from this pool."

- Manager of Non-Profit Community Agency

Appendix: Treasury Board Backgrounder



Treasury Board of Canada
Secrétariat

Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor
du Canada

Backgrounder – Effective Spending

- Related News Release: [Canada's New Government cuts wasteful programs, refocuses spending on priorities, achieves major debt reduction as promised](#)

Focusing on the priorities of Canadians:

Canadians want to know their hard-earned tax dollars are invested responsibly in effective programs that meet *their* priorities. Responsible spending is a cornerstone of accountable government.

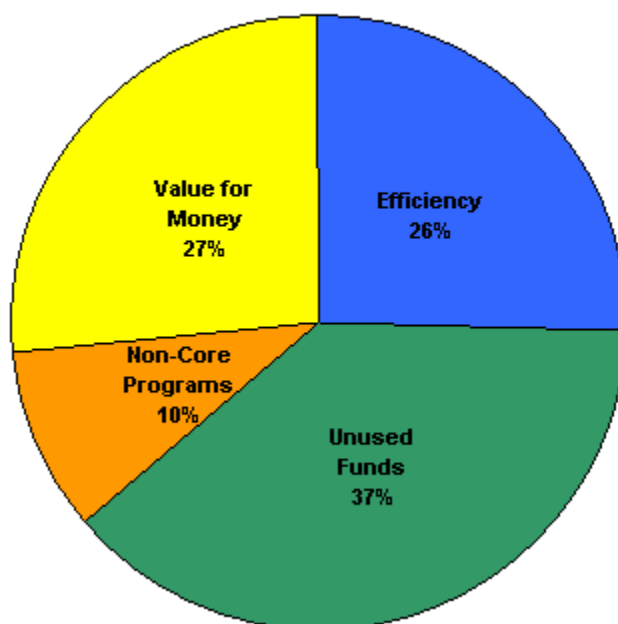
In [Budget 2006](#), Canada's New Government committed to identify \$1 billion in savings from programs and activities that are no longer effective.

We have found savings in these four areas:

- 1) Programs that weren't providing good **value for money** for Canadians. For example, we are saving \$13.9 million by not going forward with the High-Frequency Surface Radar project because access to the radio spectrum to operate this system is not available.
- 2) **Unused funds** from programs that have already achieved their objectives or had lower than expected take-up. For example, we are saving \$15 million by having settled the softwood lumber deal. The previous government never believed it could get the deal done, so it had set large amounts of money aside to pay lawyers.
- 3) **Efficiency** savings by streamlining programs. For example, we are saving \$4.5 million by consolidating some foreign missions. With the advances in telecommunication, in many cases in countries with multiple missions, work can more easily and effectively be done from a central location.
- 4) **Non-core programs**. We will save \$4 million through the elimination of funding for the research into Medical Marijuana. Canada's New Government has made big commitments to health research, and doesn't believe the federal government needs to tell professional researchers what to study.

Areas of savings identified by Canada's New Government:

2-year total - \$1,001 M



Program Savings Identified (\$000s)	
Efficiency	256,062
Unused Funds	379,563
Non-Core Programs	99,620
Value for Money	265,647
Grand Total	1,000,892

Definitions

Value for Money	Unused Funds	Non-Core Programs	Efficiency
Funding for third parties to further their interests or programs that are not effective, do not achieve results or are being re-focused or targeted for improved effectiveness.	Funding for programs that will not proceed, funds in excess of what is required to achieve results or funds not needed due to lower than anticipated take up.	Programs or activities do not meet the priorities of the federal government or Canadians.	Savings from streamlining or consolidation of activities or from operational or program efficiencies, as well as programs or services that can be provided or are being provided elsewhere.

A common-sense approach to responsible spending going forward:

Responsible spending is not a one-time exercise. It is the way Canada's New Government intends to manage tax dollars, year in and year out.

The new Expenditure Management System will make responsible spending the norm for how Canada's New Government does business. It will require that all new and existing programs go through a systematic and rigorous examination. This will ensure that this Government only approves funds that are actually needed to achieve measurable results in a way that is effective, and provides value for money on behalf of Canadians.

Detailed Savings by Area

Portfolio/Organizations	Description	2-year Savings
Efficiency		
Various	Smaller Cabinet	46,784
Agriculture and Agri-Food	Reduction in Number of Advisory Groups	1,000
Canada Revenue Agency	Elimination of Advisory Committees	1,396
Canadian Heritage	Operating/Program Efficiencies	1,105
Canadian Heritage	Reduction to Museums Assistance Program	4,630
Canadian Heritage	Status of Women Canada Administrative Savings	5,000
Canadian International Development Agency	Operational Efficiencies	4,000
Finance	Consolidating Retail Debt Program Administration	5,000
Foreign Affairs & International Trade	Elimination of Foreign Policy Consultation, Research and Outreach Contribution Program	1,309
Foreign Affairs & International Trade	Consolidation of Missions Abroad	4,250
Foreign Affairs & International Trade	More Gradual	14,000

	Implementation of Overseas Activities	
Foreign Affairs & International Trade	Reduced funding for public diplomacy	11,878
Health	Elimination of Health Canada's Policy Research Program	7,500
Health	Health Portfolio Efficiencies	28,100
Human Resources and Skills Development	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Efficiencies in the administration of CMHC programs	45,000
Human Resources and Skills Development	Efficiencies Related to Policy Research Initiative	300
Indian Affairs and Northern Development	Departmental Efficiencies	3,550
Industry	More Gradual Implementation of Commercialization Pilot Program	7,500
Industry	Statistics Canada Operational Efficiencies	15,000
Justice	Elimination of Funding for the Law Commission of Canada	4,194
Natural Resources	Cessation of Operations of the Very Long Base Interferometry (VLBI) System	1,600
Natural Resources	Elimination of Unused Funding for Previous Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative	11,700
Natural Resources	Phase in approach to International Capacity Building	1,800
Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness	Canadian Firearms Centre Operational Efficiencies	6,000

Transport	Capital Management Efficiencies	3,000
Transport	Corporate Management & Program Efficiencies	466
Treasury Board	Reduction in Additional Planned Funding for Ministers' Regional Responsibilities	20,000
Efficiency Total		256,062
Unused Funds		
Agriculture and Agri-Food	Canadian Food Inspection Agency - Elimination of Unused Program Funding	10,000
Agriculture and Agri-Food	Canadian Food Inspection Agency Reduction to Non Health and Safety Related Inspection Activities	4,000
Agriculture and Agri-Food	Reduction in Funding For Greencover Canada Program due to lower participation	5,000
Canadian Heritage	Elimination of Unneeded Funds from Loan Loss Reserve under Cultural Investment Fund	500
Citizenship and Immigration, Foreign Affairs & International Trade, Justice, Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs & Courts Administration Service	Elimination of Unused Funding for a Proposed New Citizenship Act	20,293
Environment	Parks Canada Agency Earlier Wind-up of Commercial Heritage Property Incentive Pilot	2,900
Fisheries and Oceans	Elimination of Unused Program Funding	20,000
Foreign Affairs & International Trade	Elimination of Residual Funding for Softwood Lumber Trade Litigation	14,986
Foreign Affairs & International Trade	Elimination of Unused Funding for Enhanced Representation Initiative	7,950

Health	Health Policy Grants - Unused Portion	12,000
Indian Affairs and Northern Development	Elimination of Unused Funding Related to Northwest Territories Devolution	50,000
Industry	Canadian Tourism Commission Elimination of Unused Funds for Relocation of Canadian Tourism Commission	5,675
Industry	One-Time Reduction in Excess Reserves in Canadian Intellectual Property Office Revolving Fund	50,000
Industry Canada & Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec	Reduction in Funding for the Canadian Apparel and Textile Industries Due to Lower Take Up	24,890
Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness	Royal Canadian Mounted Police Elimination of Drug Impaired Driving Program's Training Budget	4,650
Public Works and Government Services	Elimination of Excess Funding for Real Property Renewal	5,000
Public Works and Government Services	Reduction in Excess Revolving Fund Surplus	40,000
Treasury Board	Elimination of Uncommitted Funding for Government-Wide Initiatives	18,500
Treasury Board	Public Service Human Resources Management Agency of Canada Reduction in Excess Funding for Public Service Human Resource Programs	83,219
Unused Funds Total		379,563
Non-Core Programs		

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, Industry (FedNor), Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council & Western Economic Diversification	Elimination of Non-Committed Funds for Social Economy Programs	39,276
Canadian Heritage	Elimination of Support to Canadian Volunteerism Initiative	9,744
Environment	Reduction in Low Priority Grants and Contributions	7,600
Foreign Affairs & International Trade	Elimination of Youth International Internship Program	10,200
Health	Elimination of Medical Marijuana Research Program	4,000
Human Resources and Skills Development	Reduction in Low Priority Grants and Contributions Related to Social Development Partnership Program	13,800
Natural Resources	Elimination of Programs for Studying Concrete and Other Materials	1,100
Public Works and Government Services	Elimination of Canadian Identity Grant and Contribution Program	4,800
Treasury Board	Canada School of Public Service Reduction in Low Priority Training for Federal Employees	9,100
Non-Core Programs Total		99,620
Value for Money		
Canada Revenue Agency, Canada Border Services Agency & Finance	Elimination of Visitor Rebate Program	78,800
Canadian Heritage	Elimination of Funding for the Centre for Research and Information on Canada	6,500

Canadian Heritage	Elimination of Court Challenges Program	5,604
Health	Elimination of Funding for First Nations and Inuit Tobacco Control Strategy	10,800
Human Resources and Skills Development	Improved Targeting of Adult Learning and Literacy Skills Program	17,700
Human Resources and Skills Development	Improved Targeting of Investments for Youth Employment	55,400
Human Resources and Skills Development	Refocusing of Workplace Skills Strategy	17,600
Human Resources and Skills Development	Elimination of Funding for Canadian Policy Research Networks	3,000
Industry	Reduced Funding for Industrial Programs including Technology Partnerships Canada	42,200
National Defence	Cancellation of High-Frequency Surface Wave Radar Project	13,900
Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness	Refocusing of Some Funding from National Crime Prevention Centre	14,143
Value for Money Total		265,647
Grand Total		1,000,892

Date Modified: 2006-09-25

Canada