



PRESS RELEASE

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES DOES NOT BUY INTO HARPER'S "GOVERNMENT FOR ALL CANADIANS" MESSAGE

For Immediate Release

Ottawa, Ontario, June 7, 2011... The Canadian Association of Professional Employees is concerned by the contradictory message coming from yesterday's federal budget. The message that the Canadian Government wanted to communicate was that it is now "a government for all Canadians". Yet the budget presented yesterday suggests instead that there is an undisclosed plan to slash services and programs to all Canadians, increasing uncertainty and the vulnerability of every Canadian household.

The Canadian economy is among the best in the G8 countries. However, the Harper government is about to cut 80,000 Canadian jobs and eliminate related services on which most Canadians depend to maintain their standard of living. The Harper government has been saying that attrition will allow the government to avoid sending anyone home unwillingly. But the numbers don't add up. Furthermore, in the 1990s, the federal government offered incentives to effectively reach its targets - the early retirement program and the early departure program. The Harper government has no such programs.

*"I don't think Minister Flaherty is telling the whole truth to Canadians. We know from Treasury Board's own data that 20,000 Public Service employees will **not** retire each year in the coming 4 years," said CAPE President Claude Poirier. "Who are they going to let go? What services will Stephen Harper decide to cut? Are Canadians ready to see important programs disappear? Is this government really "a government for all Canadians"?"*

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