

Has your Government made any commitments concerning policies or programmes to promote full employment and economic stability in the form of constitutional provisions, statutory provisions, Government pledges and declarations? Please send the major official documents pertaining to these commitments.

Answer:

The economic policies of the Canadian Government are directed toward the maintenance of a high and stable level of employment and income. The principles governing the Government's policy for promoting full employment and economic stability were set out in a White Paper entitled "Employment and Income", presented to Parliament in 1945. The reconstruction policies outlined in this Paper included the orderly transition from economic conditions of war to those of peace, the promotion of Canada's export trade, the encouragement of private investment, the maintenance of a high level of consumption expenditures, and the use of government expenditures to offset cyclical fluctuations in capital expenditures by the private sector of the economy. In addition, research facilities were to be increased to raise the technical level of primary and secondary industry in Canada, and placement and training facilities improved to increase the mobility and adaptability of the Canadian labour force. The Government's policies were further developed and made more concrete in the "Proposals of the Government of Canada" presented to the Dominion-Provincial Conference in August, 1945. Some of the proposals put forward were wholly the responsibility of the Dominion Government, and were included as part of the Government's broader and more comprehensive economic programme. The other proposals, however, required provincial co-operation and were contingent upon reaching a satisfactory financial agreement with the provinces.

The Proposals in broad outline covered the following points:

- (1) The encouragement of external trade through export credits and support of international efforts to restore world trade and lower tariff barriers.
- (2) encouragement to private enterprise to produce and provide employment by such measures as early cancellation and settlement of war contracts, orderly decontrol of prices, wages, manpower, trade, etc., appropriate tax and fiscal measures.
- (3) promotion of increased public participation in national development, including the conservation and development of natural resources, improved transportation and communication facilities, public works, and forming part of a public investment programme designed to complement private investment and timed to offset wide economic fluctuations.
- (4) development of a well-integrated housing programme, including community planning, slum clearance, and public assistance to low-rent housing.
- (5) adequate re-establishment assistance for war veterans, including increased facilities for training and placement of workers.
- (6) provision of a greater measure of social security through unemployment insurance, family allowance, old-age pensions, health measures, vocational training and other rehabilitation services to improve employability.
- (7) new financial agreements between federal and provincial governments to stabilize provincial finances and, by giving the Canadian Government exclusive rights in certain progressive tax fields, to provide for federal responsibility for the major fluctuating items of public expenditure.