

If we had the co-operation of all levels of government, the private and public sectors, the trade unions and the farm communities, we could declare a war on unemployment and come up with many ideas about how we can channel our resources. We could end a lot of needless duplication between the provinces and the federal government and come up with programs that create many jobs.

We should also be helping those sectors that create the jobs. Small business, for example, creates most of the jobs in any country around the world. Instead of helping the large companies, with large megaprojects and all kinds of hand-outs they do not need, the money should be spent more wisely on helping the small business sector which really creates jobs.

What we should have in the future is a more locally based economy, a more decentralized economy, a more community-based economy where local people call the shots and local people determine what they can do in their communities. That will be done more and more in the world of the future by small businesses, by small enterprises, by co-operatives, by worker co-ops, by a mix of public and private ownership and by community-based, community-controlled ownership. Those things are working in other countries around the world.

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Another area where we could spend more money in terms of creating jobs immediately in a part of the country like mine is by helping farmers more than we do. In terms of farm programs the government for a long time now has promised a third line of defence to help prairie farmers who are going bankrupt in pretty well record numbers. If the federal government were to help the farmers more, they would have money to seed their crops. They would have money to buy new machinery, to repair their machinery, to build storage bins for their grains. They would have money that they would spend. When farmers spend that money, they spend it here in the country, putting Canadians to work in towns and villages right across Canada.

When the farmer is better off in that way, we are all better off in terms of that money being circulated and recirculated in our country, putting Canadians to work in the small towns and villages across Canada.

I believe there are things that we can do. I believe we should be changing our tax system. Why, for example, did the government a few weeks ago bring in a bill to

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protect private trusts whereby wealthy families in this country can set aside large gobs of money that will not be taxed? Why are we only one of two countries in the OECD that does not have a wealth tax? Canada and Australia are the only two countries that do not have a wealth tax. Even the Americans have a wealth tax. The British, even under Margaret Thatcher, a very conservative prime minister, have a wealth tax in their country. Why do we not have one in Canada which would exempt the family home, the farm and the small business, but would be wealth tax on our wealthiest Canadian citizens?

These are some of the things that exist in other parts of the world. If we had more government revenues we could put those revenues into places that create jobs for the Canadian people, investing in people, investing in job creation, investing in trying to build more things and do more things in the country, putting more money into training, retraining, research and development, into education, skills, and a national apprenticeship program. Those are the kinds of things that we need.

Instead we see the federal government cutting back on the rate of increase in transfer payments to the provinces. It is fond of saying that it has not cut back on the money going to the provinces for education, health care and social welfare programs and it has not cut back in absolute numbers. What the government has done is cut back on the rate of increase so that in a province like mine we are now getting \$500 million less per year now than we would have if the changes had not been made over the last decade.

Five hundred million dollars a year in a small province with a small budget is a lot of money. Our province has a deficit this year of roughly \$250 million. If the transfers had not been cut back in terms of rate of increase, there would not be a deficit. Indeed there would be a surplus of \$250 million. That surplus I am sure would have been spent on health care, education and job creation in Saskatchewan. We would have a stronger economy and a better society than we have today.

I know that money for the federal government does not grow on trees. However a fair tax system where the wealthy and the large corporations pay their fair share would give the federal government more flexibility so it would not have to cut back on the rate of increase of transfers. More money could go into social programs or job creation programs. They could be cost-shared, co-operative programs between both levels of government.