

17. It is not enough that the government "urge" provinces to ensure they do not consider GST Credits as income for the purpose of determining eligibility for payment through social assistance programs. The federal government must secure undertakings from the provinces to see this doesn't happen. Low income Canadians must not become the scape-goats for provinces already suffering from reduced federal transfer payments.

18. The Liberal Party does not support the formation of a GST Consumer Information Office. There are several reasons for this. First, the government says its main goal will be to educate consumers about the GST. How credible will the government be as an educator when its first advertising campaign for the GST was ruled as "misleading" by the Speaker of the House of Commons? Why should Canadians believe what they are told by a government who have formal complaints lodged against them by the Better Business Bureau for false advertising?

19. Second, the information needed by the Consumer Information Office simply doesn't exist. How can this small body, staffed by 20 people, fairly deem a company to not be passing on FST savings when the company itself cannot know how much FST it is currently paying? For the Consumers Information Office to have such grandiose goals is not reasonable.

20. Finally, spending 19 million dollars to establish this office is a needless waste of taxpayers' money. The Office, in reality, will be able to do little more than offer consumers a false sense of security. Information similar to that which the Information Office may want is already being sought by the Departments of Finance and Revenue. There is no need for an additional 20 people to try and achieve the impossible.