



GLEN MOTZ

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR MEDICINE HAT—CARDSTON—WARNER

SPRING 2021



REBUILDING ECONOMY CONSERVATIVE PRIORITY

Conservatives are focused on re-establishing Canada's economy in every part of the country and in every sector, through targeted planning on job creation and getting people back to work. The pandemic has become an extraordinary threat to the lives and livelihoods of Canadians that requires an extraordinary response.

Conservatives supported, even enhanced, the framework for short-term spending increases to help struggling Canadians. Yet, at the same time, there must be a focus on what occurs following the pandemic. Canadians have a right to know what comes next. Emergency Aid - while necessary right - is not an indefinite solution.

The Liberals are a risk to Canada's economy and in turn your own personal financial security. They can't be trusted with jobs and the economy, having proven repeatedly over the past five years they are incapable of getting us out of a recession. Prior to the pandemic, the Trudeau Liberals had already ruined Canada's once-enviable financial position with their reckless spending. They wasted your hard-earned money on their friends and vanity projects.

Like all governments, they massively increased spending in response to the pandemic. However, for the Liberals, the spending of the past is just the beginning. They plan to keep up their big spending, big debt agenda well after the COVID crisis has passed, which will

financially crush our nation.

Indeed, they view the pandemic as an opportunity to "re-imagine" Canada's economy. What that means is a risky experiment that has failed wherever it's

sector and in every part of our country is key to Canada's future success. Recovery must encompass oil and gas, lumber, agriculture sectors, international trade and trade across provincial boundaries, among others. It cannot be just a recovery for Liberal friendly commerce.

Canadians need to be able to trust their institutions and government representatives, for without trust we become a broken nation. Trust means doing what you say you will do. It means dependability and certainty. My Conservative colleagues and I will always strive to conduct ourselves with accountability, integrity, and transparency.

At the heart of my work in Parliament is the belief that the goal of government must be the common good for all, with circumstances that allow people to achieve their full potential. To nurture, mobilize, and encourage generosity, pride, talent, and solidarity.

Hearing directly from constituents helps me to better represent the views of families, business and municipalities of the Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner riding in Canada's Parliament. Therefore, I invite you to review constituent responses from my recent budget consultation survey contained in this newsletter.

I would like to thank everyone who participated as your feedback is valuable.

THE FACTS



1 IN 6 BUSINESSES are at risk of closing (**181,000 businesses**)



58,000 BUSINESSES have **ALREADY CLOSED**



2.4 MILLION JOBS are at stake

CRIB: LAURENCE DEBON

been tried before. It's an agenda where Liberals in Ottawa choose which sectors benefit and which don't. It will put untold Canadians out of work, but as always, the big winners will be their well-connected friends. It defies belief that they would risk our economic future at a time like this.

Securing our country's future must mean a recovery for all Canadians, not just those that meet some ideological Liberal litmus test. Employment opportunities, job growth in every

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BUDGET SURVEY RESPONSES

Despite the Liberal government not having tabled a budget in the past two years, each year I conduct a survey of constituents, businesses, and municipal governments throughout the riding to gather your input of what you would like to see in a federal budget. I think we can all agree that the past year has been extraordinary on a number of fronts, and the responses from this year's survey certainly indicate the shifting priorities of Medicine Hat—Cardston—Warner. It should be noted that the Liberals have quietly committed to delaying a budget until mid-April.

Perhaps the most common theme among respondents – both individuals and businesses – was the uncertainty caused not just by the pandemic itself, but by the overall response of various levels of government. Getting back to a degree of normalcy, ending the government's state of perpetual pandemic, and reopening the economy so Canadians can get their jobs back were the top priority for residents. Likewise, businesses identified the constantly-changing regulatory environment and other negative impacts from the lockdowns as major issues.

The factors driving the economic reality are also spilling over into other areas. While over half of respondents expressed concern about the impact of the current situation on mental health, only one in three indicated they have access to the necessary mental health supports. Certainly the uncertainty over jobs, particularly in the energy sector, is a key contributor. 33% said they are struggling or falling behind, and another 40% say life is more difficult than pre-pandemic.

Respondents identified the need to prioritize the energy sector, small businesses and agriculture for growth and the need to preserve jobs. Since day one, my priority as Member of Parliament has been the critical jobs that sustain the communities across the riding, and I will continue to fight on these fronts, particularly with the threat of a spring election on the horizon.

Speaking of elections and the future, respondents overwhelmingly indicated that despite any end to the pandemic, they expect life to get harder than before – largely due to the impacts of the Carbon Tax, Trudeau's pandemic spending spree, and the expected end to historically-low interest rates that are

currently propping up the economy.

An important and necessary tool in ending the pandemic is the rollout of vaccines across the country – something the government has botched on a colossal scale. One in three of our survey respondents indicated they will not get the vaccine. Only 16% believe the federal government will meet its target of vaccinating everyone who wants to be by September. With only three vaccines currently approved in Canada, 16% believe there will not be enough supply to reach everyone.

I want to thank those who took the time to respond to this year's Budget Survey. Your input directly informs the work I do in Ottawa on your behalf, and this feedback is invaluable in advocating for our residents' priorities. As I indicated, all eyes are on the government to see if they will break their two-year no budget dry-spell. If they do, we expect it to be a budget on which Justin Trudeau will seek to send Canadians to the polls for a mid-pandemic election – something that only he seems to be pining for.



CONSTITUENT SURVEY

Going into 2020, the majority of people were already skeptical before the pandemic hit. Nearly half (47%) expected 2020 to be worse than 2019. 40% were expecting 2020 to be the same or better. This is similar to 2019's survey where 47% expected things to be worse, and 32% expected things to be better or the same.

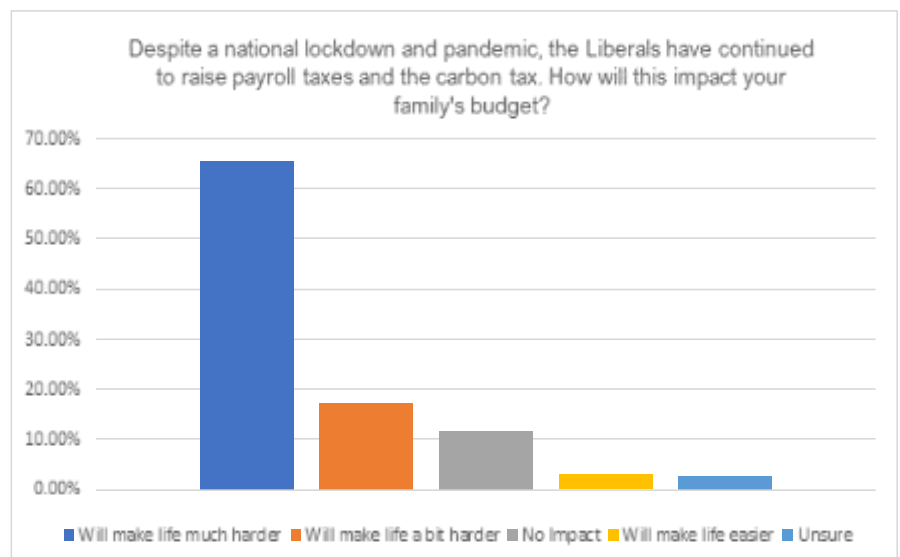
The 2021 survey had slightly different questions. 45% of constituents are expecting the pandemic and lockdowns to end and a return to a normal way of life. 11% expect things to remain the same. Only 21% expected life to be better than previous. 6.5% were unsure and 16.5% expected something else. In 2020, the top measure (30%) to improve life for families was to lower taxes and lower living costs (35%). "Other" was the third largest option with a variety of answers.

Asked about measures that would improve life, constituents responded overwhelmingly for an end to COVID re-

strictions and lockdowns (48%) followed by lowering costs (lower taxes & living costs) (23%), job opportunities (7%) and other (16%) which emphasized different responses from all of the above to individual program issues.

As many know, we are facing a mental health crisis in our community, and this year we included a question to help us

understand it on a macro level. 57% said there had been a significant or moderate mental health impact from the pandemic, while 22% identified a minimal impact. Thankfully, a majority (35%) said they had access to mental health supports—though 27% did not. Which means we as a community have more work to do.



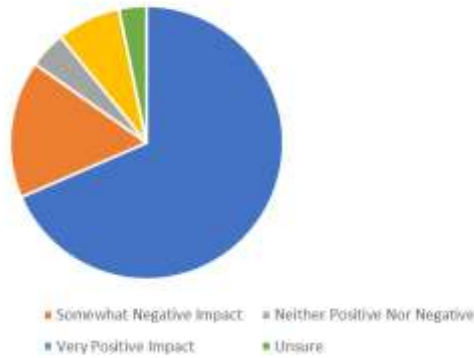
BUSINESS SURVEY



The answers to the survey suggest that uncertainty is a serious concern. With negative impacts from the pandemic/lockdown, there is a high degree of uncertainty whether companies will survive. Significant barriers to growth created by governments include taxes, regulatory uncertainty and red tape. Most companies are not considering moving away from Canada or the riding at this time but continue to call for changes to help them prosper. The top request was for "Stable, predictable government decisions and planning from the federal government.

Overall, 85% of companies report a negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their business. 44% said the impact was very bad, and 41% somewhat bad. Not surprisingly, the outlook for 2021 is fairly skeptical, with just 26% hoping for a return to normal. However, there is a high level of uncertainty with 56% of companies: 26% are reporting enough uncertainty that their business may close; 30% reporting they are not sure what to expect. 11% believe there will be little to no change compared to 2020 – which should be interpreted as a negative

What will be the impacts of the Liberals raising taxes including payroll taxes and the carbon tax?

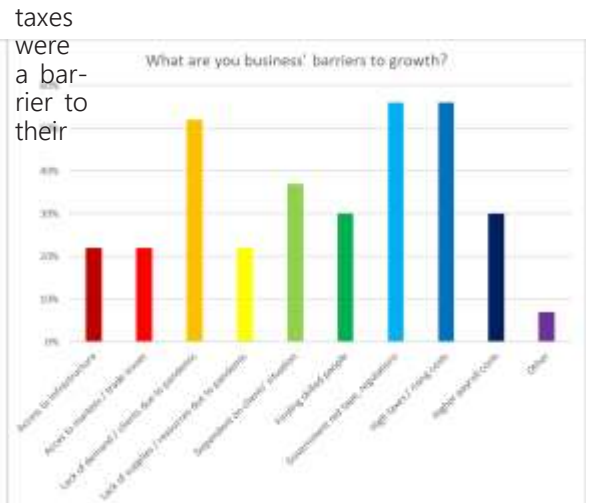


growth. It is surprising that these issues were more significant than the impacts of the pandemic – at 52%. Likewise, a number of companies noted that their success will likely be tied to their clients' capacity (37%). Issues relating to access to markets and trade barriers were prominent in the resources / agriculture sectors.

answer given the turmoil and challenges of 2020.

The pandemic aside, we also asked about barriers to growth—which allowed for multiple responses. The most significant issues are tied to the government management and policies – with 56% of companies reporting that government red tape, regulations and rising costs and

Reinvesting in a company is typically a sign of a strong economy and the security of a company. With only 44% of respondents saying they will be investing in their own company this year, that supports previous responses on volatility and uncertainty in the business community. An equal share (26%) said they will not be investing or are uncertain if they will invest this year.



DO YOU TRUST THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A PANDEMIC RECOVERY PLAN THAT INCLUDES ALL CANADIANS?

YES
 NO
 UNSURE

COMMENTS:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

EMAIL: _____

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Want to receive regular email news updates, perspectives

Yes! Sign me up
 Maybe Later

MUNICIPALITY SURVEY

- There were three strong areas of priority identified to help create jobs: 86% said infrastructure funding; 79% said youth training programs (Canada Summer Jobs); and 64% said support for new companies and companies re-starting operations. The lowest response was for more government jobs. Other responses included completion of the funding commitment for Foremost (National Trade Corridor Fund); restore the energy sector; and return students to university.
- Twice as many (67%) municipalities said the impact of the pandemic was moderate versus significant (33%).
- The top areas for economic focus were support for agriculture (100%), the service sector (79%), and tourism and energy sectors both with 71%. Comments suggested support should also be provided for: health care; home-based businesses; and residential development investment attraction.
- All but one community said that the federal government should eliminate the carbon tax (93%). 79% suggest lower taxes as well as helping get our agriculture and energy goods to market. A majority (57%) also recommended improving access to federal programs.

WHICH FEDERAL PROGRAMS WOULD CREATE JOBS OR INVESTMENTS IN YOUR COMMUNITIES? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Infrastructure programs (Gas Tax Fund, Municipal Projects) 86%

Youth training programs (Canada Summer Jobs) 78%

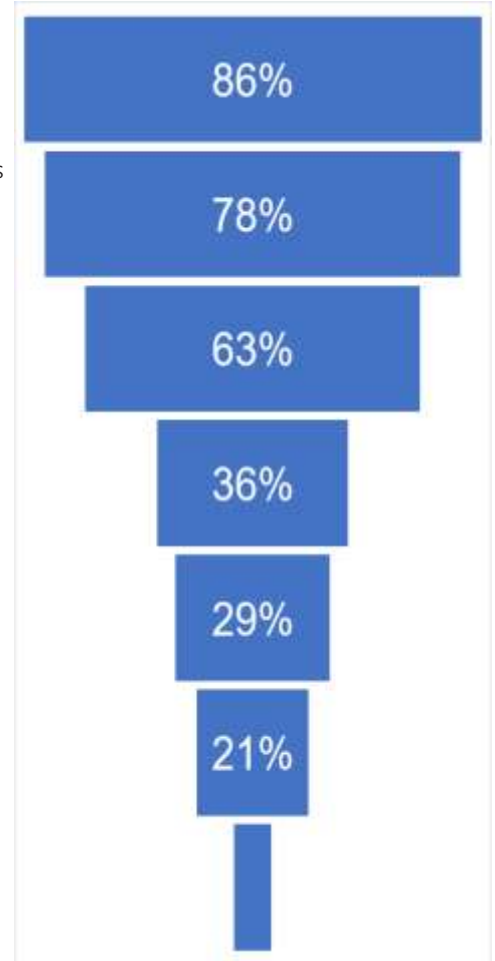
Provide more support for new companies, re-start of businesses 63%

Skills training for new jobs 36%

Other 29%

Expand or continue federal wage subsidy programs 21%

Create more government jobs in rural communities (7%) 7%



NO POSTAGE REQUIRED

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CUT

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