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Wild Rose

Wild Rose Report

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WORKING TO UNTANGLE JOB-KILLING RED TAPE

In challenging economic times, Canadian businesses are running a tough race.

Fierce competition, financing and capital requirements, management and recruitment needs and all of the various risks inherent in any business make the contest difficult enough without government throwing more hurdles in the way.

In fact, in surveys by financial institutions, small- and medium-sized businesses consistently list government red-tape as one of their biggest barriers to growth.

As part of our plan to complete Canada's economic recovery, our Conservative Government is consulting with business to identify and find new ways to eliminate the bureaucratic red-tape that so often stifles economic growth. This summer we took an important step forward through the release of the 'What Was Heard' Report – the interim findings of our Government's special Red Tape Reduction Commission.

Struck in January of this year, the commission's mandate is to consult with businesses and entrepreneurs to identify irritants and to make recommendations on how to overcome the challenges of government over-regulation that add costs and hurt opportunities for business – all while ensuring safeguards for Canadians are not compromised in the process.

The interim report highlights the core issues that were identified during the consultations that took place between January and March 2011. The list of challenges businesses say they face due to red tape is long. And their recommendations for improvement are thoughtful. The full report can be read online at www.reducedredtape.gc.ca, but some proposals heard by the commission include: exchanging regulations for non-regulatory approaches where appropriate; making regulations more performance-oriented and focused on outcomes; rethinking thresholds that are impractical for small businesses to meet; and improved appeals and complaints mechanisms when dealing with bureaucracies, for example.

Members of the business community are invited to send their views on the proposals in the interim report to the commission through an online questionnaire, also available at www.reducedredtape.gc.ca. These responses and the interim report will form the basis of the commission's final report that will recommend ways to cut red tape.

Because when businesses are running to win in a tough economy, the only red-tape they really need to see is the one that marks the finish line.