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Wild Rose

Wild Rose Report

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STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT, SAVING TAXPAYER MONEY

The sooner we can erase the temporary deficit caused by the recent global economic crisis, the better position we'll be in to deal with the next curve that gets thrown our way in these uncertain times.

Our Conservative Government has launched the Strategic and Operating Review as part of these deficit-reduction measures. This review is aimed at eliminating government waste and duplication across all departments, and the creation this summer of Shared Services Canada is a good example of the outcomes that the review aims to achieve.

Shared Services Canada is a new initiative to streamline and consolidate the federal government's information technologies services. Presently, there are 100 different e-mail systems for federal employees, 300 data centres across the country that store computing equipment for departments, and over 3,000 overlapping and uncoordinated electronic networks within and between departments and agencies.

This set-up is clearly inefficient and wasteful. It is uneconomical and sometimes insecure.

Shared Services Canada will transform this set-up and get better value for taxpayers from IT services across the federal government.

Other governments and private sector companies in particular have demonstrated that streamlining and consolidating in the areas of email, data centres and networks results in substantial cost-savings and improved information security.

Streamlining and reducing duplication in the Government's IT services is the smart thing to do and consistent with our operating review, which is finding savings and efficiencies for Canadians across the public service.

Our financial position in Canada is better than most countries but recent market meltdowns, the U.S. debt crisis and lingering aftershocks of the global economic recession illustrate again just how fragile the world's economy remains. The top priority of our Conservative Government is to ensure that our economy remains strong while we continue with our plan to return to balanced budgets.

Shared Services Canada is another example of responsible government spending and our commitment to ensure ongoing value for your hard-earned tax dollars.