From S22

Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2013 3:32 PM To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Subject: Re: Canada Job Grant - Comments on excerpts from the CBC article today- Premiers

meeting

Premier Clarke....

- I reside in Westbank, and would have sent this to you as my MLA.....but the listing of MLA's has not been updated to reflect your election. I respectfully suggest you do so that your constituents can contact you or your constituency office as our MLA
- I forward an email I sent to MP Dan Albas earlier today with regard the above topic....it pertains to the CBC article as available this AM....it is largely self explanatory...see below in "red"

Good luck Respectfully

S22

Dan Albas MP Okanagan-Coquihalla @danalbas danalbas.comhttp://danalbas.com Constituency (250) 770-4480 Parliament Hill (613) 995-1702

S22

On 2013-07-25, at 9:29 AM, s22

wrote:

Dan...see below in red

I have resisted commenting on what the Harper gov't is "up to". in this regard...but the more I read, the more anxious I get....there is history and "learning lessons" that are being ignored.....a new generation of "policy folks" seemingly think they are re:inventing the world....

What is the real agenda of the Harper gov't....not the rhetorical one in the public domain ????....

Take care, be well, be healthy, be happy

Have a good summer

Respectfully

Job training appears to be one of the most contentious issues on the table as Canada's premiers meet today in Niagara-on-the-Lake for their semi-annual get-together. At stake is a possible jurisdictional battle with Ottawa that could go on for months and threatens to cloud the issue even more.

Several provincial leaders have already vowed to fight the \$900-million Canada Job Grant plan announced without consultation in the March federal budget, upset both at Ottawa's move into a provincial domain and the added cost of the program to their own coffers.

At the same time, Dan Kelly, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, a group whose members are largely overlooked by the plan, says he hopes these provinces set their initial reactions aside and try to come up with ways to make the proposal work.

"I think that they have to take off their parochial hats," said Kelly, and start thinking about "how do we make sure the dollars go to training."

That approach, however, won't be easy. In June, a report by the University of Toronto's Mowat Centre and the Caledon Institute of Social Policy called the Canada Job Grant plan a "slap in the face" for provinces and territories — and referred to the proposal as "deeply flawed."

"The Canada Job Grant represents an aggressive federal foray into an area which had been recognized over the last quarter century as within provincial jurisdiction," the report stated. (Not the last quarter century....Provincial jurisdiction over "training" essentially occurred when PM Chretien mandated the Labour Market Development Agreements...first negotiated in Alberta..... The Feds essentially ripped all of the CRF dollars out of the budget, then negotiated deals that involved EI Funds.)

It also argued that the program will be a windfall for employers who already invest in skills training, and would, in effect, amount to subsidizing what already exists without creating new jobs. (Yep....that's what happened before)

Meanwhile, it will miss the large number of Canada's private sector employees who work at small- and medium-sized (and certain industrial sectors/geographic areas)businesses, like the kind represented by the CFIB. These companies don't usually have the capacity to organize a training program and typically rely on informal, on-the-job training. (Yep)

Bigger role for business

Kelly says small and medium-sized firms represent 60 per cent of the total employment in Canada and are often the first training grounds for employees.

And while the proposed plan doesn't currently address small businesses, Kelly says it holds the kind of promise that shouldn't be ignored.

"The piece that I like the best about the Canada Job Grant is that it involves employers in a far more fundamental way in the training process ... than ever before," he said.(Not so...when Canada adopted the OECD "active manpower policy" back in the late '60's it incorporated a program element called "training on the job" (TOJ)subsequently abandoned....and the feds used have finger prints all over apprenticeship by virtue of the former Canada Manpower Training Act (CMTP)

which has both training, and indenturing of trainees to employers for related on the job work experience elements,

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced the new Canada Job Grant in the 2013 budget without, provinces said, much in the way of advance consultation. (Canadian Press)

Slated to begin in April 2014, the federal government vows that the grants program will train 130,000 Canadians each year once fully implemented.

The program would work by providing cash grants for short-term training, sponsored by employers, for those who are unemployed or underemployed. (Presumably using EI dollars as contrasted to any CRF funds)

Sponsoring organizations would have to allot up to \$5,000 in funds themselves, then both the federal and provincial governments would kick in matching cash grants.

However, the new program would take \$300 million out of funds that have annually gone to the provinces over the past six years .(more than six years ago

..first one negotiated in Alberta for strategic reasons in the late 1990's..other Provinces eventually followed through with varieties of Labour Market Development Agreements), an arrangement that allowed each province to tailor-make its own job-training program.

It also expects provinces to put up \$300 million of their own in matching funds, money that could force them to cut established programs, some premiers have said. The Provinces are rightly upset

"The reality is, if they give you \$10, take back \$6 and then want you to match the \$6, there is a problem because you're short," Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger said in an interview Wednesday evening with CBC TV's Power & Politics host Evan Solomon.

'Mystery program'

Nearly 1.4 million Canadians don't have a job — and there are more than 220,000 vacant positions, according to the most recent Statistics Canada figures. That means that, in theory, there are six unemployed people for each job.

Figuring out how to find the right workers to fill those posts, however, is no easy task. For the past two decades, the federal government devolved responsibility for labour market training to the provinces, a natural fit since education falls under their mandate as well.

With the Canada Job Grant, however, the federal government aims to take back at least some of the control it used to wield. (Yep...using a fiscal lever to get the Prov's to behave the way they want..)

Back in the 1980s, when André Juneau worked in the federal government's employment ministry, (Andre worked in the Ministry as a policy wonk...and not so much within the employment program itself) there was a huge local and regional bureaucracy to administer federal job programs, he recalls. But that's been dismantled.(Actually Andre, is only partially right....no question the federal capacity to deliver employment programming was decimated...by design.....the LMDA's (about 1999 on) required the Provinces to accept the transfer of employment program staff to them.... not only those involved in training support programs, but those doing job counseling, and placement/labour exchange/matching workers to jobs/off shore recruitment)

"How will it be able to deliver [the plan]? (Only if one expands the federal staff component and increases the size of the public service ...or will Provincial "employment staff" as transferred under LMDA's be doing it?) How will it be able to monitor what a business does? (Hasn't be done successfully before) How will it be involved in identifying workers who need the training?" (Only if one expands the federal staff component and increases the size of the public service) asked Juneau, who is now director of Queen's University's Institute of Intergovernmental Relations.

"I don't know. And the government hasn't said anything about this." (Nope....typical...worry about implementation implications later)

The Canada Job Grant is what Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter has called a "mystery program." Nova Scotia is among several provinces — including Ontario and Quebec — that have expressed opposition to the plan. (Understandable....and keep in mind that Nova Scotia liked having the Feds involved pre-LMDA days)

In Alberta, where the estimated cost of not filling vacant jobs in the province is expected to hit \$33 billion over four years, according to a new study by University of Alberta's Institute for Public Economics, the response has been less critical. (High skilled technical/professional workers are in international demand ...short term training doesn't address this issue...and if you want a greater "supply" of accredited/certified job seekers one has to remember that the Provinces call the shots on "standards"....and notwithstanding the Red Seal program, portability of those skills between jurisdictions is their domain)

"We're very supportive of making sure it's a fair program," Premier Alison Redford told reporters this week. (Alberta again takes the high road...just like they did in the LMDA process...but their Treasury under fiscal pressure as well)

In his interview with CBC's Evan Solomon Wednesday, Selinger acknowledged that the federal government has a role to play to encourage labour mobility (there has never been a "national" nor federal Labour market mobility policy....the Feds dabbled in "mobility" in the 70's with labour market mobility grants to individuals to get them to consider/accept work in demand areas..but again, abandoned)....and job matches across the country, (better talk to the Unions about their Union Hiring hall agreements, where some control over matching workers to jobs/requiring mobility is effectively done by them) as long as they allow for flexibility to address regional markets. ...(admittedly a fair concern, but see above comments...if/if the Harper administration thinks they are going to force labor mobility they are a tad!

.a laudable intent but/but...)

Not everyone has been critical. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce and several sectors with chronic shortages welcomed the Ottawa's new jobs plan with open arms.

Warren Everson, the Chamber of Commerce's senior vice-president of policy, has said that the jobs grant plan will take skills-training choices out of government hands and put them "where they belong, in the hands of employers and Canadians who want to work." Experience suggests that larger employers might benefit because they can mount a training program (often through industrial associations), or by contracting with Provincial/Territorial ministry's for the necessary expertise....smaller employers and those in rural/geographically unappealing areas are at an extreme disadvantage...ditto to some industrial sectors versus others (the service sector versus manufacturing for example) and where is the tie in to expanding apprenticeship (Provincial jurisdiction....Alberta does a heck of a job....and listens to industry)

'Devil in the details'.....(which a lot of folks in Ottawa aren't well versed in..)

Juneau notes that while job training has been a provincial domain in recent years, it's also a federal concern due to labour mobility, particularly in provinces such as Alberta where skilled workers come to work in the oil industry from across Canada. (See above comments re Selinger' comments regarding mobility.... Andre was a policy guy...never had his feet on the ground in administering/operating/delivering the employment program.... from the outset Suncor/Syncrude recruited all across Canada for necessary skills.... and were put through a bunch of hoops before being allowed to go off shore)

He does note, however, that there is little research on how well provincial job programs have been doing (If memory serves me correct this was to have occurred as part of the LMDA's) — and what exactly needs to be done to help train the unemployed.

"What makes this more complicated is that labour market policy is far from a science.(...how true ...over/under supply of doctors/nurses and educators over the years make that point with abundance...but ...it's not just "policy" per se....expectations placed on labour force participants regarding mobility (inducements to doctors to set up practices in rural/geographically remote areas, or getting workers to accept skills upgrading is far and away more complicated!!!) It's rare that policy is a science. But labour market policy is really a pretty approximate business," said

Juneau. (Yep....and how robust is the Labour Force Survey in assisting in identifying shortfalls and preparing for them?)

"Governments would like to influence how labour markets work but it's very difficult to do so."

For his part, Kelly is actively pitching his ideas to both levels of government, and much of his focus is on getting more of the informal on-the-job informal training that small businesses do recognized under the plan. (Yep...getting financial relief for that which they are already doing for reasons of competitiveness/staff retention....that's what happened in the former Training on the Job Program (TOJ)

He's hoping that the provincial leaders will also spend more time on brainstorming ideas than bickering over control. (Maybe this is really what the Feds are driving...getting the Provinces to take the lead in developing some sort of national consensus on policy/approaches....)

"As always the devil's in the details. This has some potential if done properly but it could be a disaster if it turns into a federal-provincial fight or if they don't do it right."

From: Olson, Alisha PREM:EX

Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2013 11:43

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Warren, Keira PREM:EX

Subject: FW:

From: Norma Strachan [mailto:nstrachan@aspect.bc.ca]

Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2013 11:42 AM

To: Olson, Alisha PREM:EX

Subject:

Hello

Please find attached a letter to the Premier and her Deputy that requests the opportunity of a meeting.

Thank you.

Norma Strachan, Chief Executive Officer ASPECT - BC's Community Based Trainers 975 Alston Street, Victoria, BC V9A 3S5

tel: 250 382 9675 ext: 225

fax: 250 382 9677 web: www.aspect.bc.ca

Empowering Individuals, Enriching Communities

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The Honorable Christy Clark, Premier Government of British Columbia PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC V8W 9E1 October 2, 2013



Dear Premier Clark:

ASPECT (The Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training) is a non- profit association of more than 150 community based employment training agencies throughout British Columbia. We represent the issues of our members to both the federal and provincial governments and create workshops and conferences to provide professional development and networking opportunities. We have a long history of working collaboratively and co-operatively with federal government departments and provincial ministries to contribute to the success of clients seeking employment in BC.

ASPECT is affiliated with other provincial associations through our membership in the Canadian Coalition of Community Based Employability Training (CCCBET). We support and endorse the position (attached) of our national organization, the Canadian Coalition of Community Based Employability Training. Additionally, ASPECT sent letters and position papers to the Minister of Employment and Social Development, Jason Kenney, the leaders of all the federal parties, as well as to all Members of Parliament from BC. ASPECT's position is that the responsibility for employment and skills training should remain under the management of the province and that the LMA should not be eroded or reallocated by the federal government.

ASPECT and CCCBET want to be involved in supporting the provincial government through the negotiations with the federal government. Collectively, we want to support the retention of the LMA's with the provinces. We are fortunate that the current Chair of the CCCBET is located in British Columbia and we would like to meet to meet with you together at your earliest convenience to discuss the status of labour market training in BC, the Canada Jobs Grant and the renegotiation of the Labour Market Agreement.

Respectfully yours,

Norma Strachan, CEO, ASPECT

nstrachan@aspect.bc.ca

cc John Dyble, Deputy Minister to the Premier

The Honorable Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
The Honorable Don MacRae, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation
Dave Byng, Deputy Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Sheila Taylor, Deputy Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation
Scott MacDonald, Assistant Deputy Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Nichola Manning, Assistant Deputy Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation
Chris Atchison, Chair, Canadian Coalition of Community Based Employability Training.

Canadian Coalition of Community-Based Employability Training

Canada's Voice for the Employment and Training Sector



Coalition canadienne des organismes communautaires en développement de l'employabilité

> La voic de l'e riployabilité au Carada

> > October 3, 2013

CCCBET Position Paper on the Canada Jobs Grant

The Canadian Coalition of Community-Based Employability Training (CCCBET) is a national, non-profit association whose membership is comprised of representatives from provincial employment and training organizations. CCCBET provides a voice for non-governmental organizations developing, delivering or interested in effective labour market programs. Our focus at present: employability programs which assist vulnerable and unemployed Canadians are threatened due to the federal government's planned Canada Job Grant and the diversion of Provincial, Territorial, and Federal Labour Market Agreement funds to pay for the grant.

CCCBET recognizes the need for labour market programs to continuously improve, respond to changing economic challenges and spend public funds as effectively, efficiently and fairly as possible. We share the government's goal of seeking to engage the private sector more deeply in the training and development of skilled workers where skills gaps and labour market challenges exist. We want government to put our expert, practical knowledge and experience on employment and training programs to use to help them improve labour market programs and implement new approaches that will work.

CCCBET key objectives:

- To achieve greater recognition of the success of the current Labour Market Agreements' and acknowledge the continuing critical role of the federal government in reducing employment barriers and expanding opportunities for people. Many of those we currently serve are under-represented populations in local labour markets. These individuals include: Aboriginal peoples; immigrants; older workers; persons with disabilities; persons with low literacy levels; women, and; youth. It is these same groups that have been highlighted by governments as vital new sources of labour;
- To provide positive policy and program options, grounded in the experience of our participating
 organizations, for improving labour market programs in Canada, especially for those persons currently
 served by the Labour Market Agreements; and
- To participate in current discussions and consultations with both the federal and provincial governments about the continuation of the Labour Market Agreements and possible implementation of a Canada Job Grant.

Canadian Coalition of Community-Based Employability Training

Canada's Vaice for the Employment and Training Sector



Coalition canadienne des organismes communautaires en développement de l'employabilité

La vox de l'employabilité au Canada

CCCBET key messages:

The message	Examples of our 'talking points'
Labour Market Agreement programs are presently working and working well throughout Canada. They are accountable, flexible and responsive to local labour market needs.	The programs under the existing Labour Market Agreements are helping tens of thousands of Canadians get jobs and improve their lives. Today's programs can certainly be better but eliminating them in favour of a completely unknown, untested program would be a huge waste of public money.
Labour Market Agreement programs delivered through employability and training organizations have built strong, lasting connections with employers.	Very few employers in Canada have any experience in training. We support getting employers more deeply involved, but believe that just offering a training grant and then expecting matching funds (up to \$5,000) from employers is not the way to achieve this objective.
We support the position of the Provinces and Territories: they are the level of government best equipped to design and deliver labour market programs, rather than a one-size fits all federal government program.	It should be obvious to everyone that the labour market in rural Quebec is not the same as in downtown Vancouver, or Fort McMurray. We need programs designed for real local needs.
The Federal Government is best suited to setting vision, broad operational parameters, evaluation and outcome measures and developing better national labour market information to achieve equity across the country.	Ottawa needs to do what it can do best: set a vision for Canada, demand rigorous evaluations of programs, set national goals, and maintain national labour market information.

Chris Atchison, CCCBET Chair

For further information please contact:

Chris Atchison, Chair
CCCBET – The Canadian Coalition of Community Based Employability Training
http://www.ccocde-cccbet.com/en/cccbet/
250 382 9675 ext: 233
250 818 9671 (cel)
catchison@aspect.bc.ca

From:

S22

Sent: Friday, October 4, 2013 10:38 PM To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Cc: premier@gov.nb.ca; gary.holman.mla@leg.bc.ca Subject: Re: Job-grants cuts may weaken economy.

Importance: High

October 4, 2013 B.C. Premier, Christy Clark, Parliament Building Victoria, B.C.

Re: Job-grants cuts may weaken economy.

My dear Madam Clark:

You are so right in what you and premier David Alward in New Brunswick is saying in your article in the Victoria Times Colonist of today, October 4,2013, that: Job – grants cut may weaken economy. (See enclosure)

S22

I like to get a \$ 250,000. Grant from the Province of B.C.,

S22

S22

However, I'm not holding my breath, because, I do not think that there is anybody in your government with enough intelligence, or soundness of moral principle and character, uprightness or honesty to understand, what this could mean for the employment and economy of B.C.

If you claim poverty, and cannot afford to give me a \$ 250,000. Grant, may I suggest, that you ask the Attorney General, Suzanne Anton, that she give you \$ 250,000. out of the Net Income of \$ 911.1 Million Dollars her Alcohol and Poison Distribution Branch made in the fiscal year 2011/12, by selling Alcohol, Moonshine and Poison to all the idiots here in B.C. wanting to kill themselves with Alcohol=Poison.

Also, I'm not a member of your Liberal Party, or any Party, and it is not my intention to pay you, your Liberal Party, or any of your civil (or evil) servants any bribes, in order to get a favor from your government, like the B.C. civil servants use to take bribes in order to do any business with people wanting to buy railroads here in B.C. I guess you recall how the Minister of Finance assistants took bribes a few years ago, in order to expedite a shady deal with the Liberal government of B.C.

I'm forwarding a copy of this letter to the premier of New Brunswick, where the New Brunswick Sardines come from, and to my local MLA, Gary Holman, representing the good citizens of Sidney, and the territory surrounding 'Sidney by the Sea', including the salty Island of Saltspring Island.

Yours truly,

S22

Pages 13 through 16 redacted for the following reasons:

S22





September 27th, 2013

Re: Proposed Canada Job Grant and its impact on the funding for BC's LMA programs

The Honourable Christy Clark Premier of British Columbia PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Clark,

After reviewing the information I have been able to obtain on the Canada Jobs Grant, I am writing in opposition to moving BC's Provincial LMA funds to this program.

The Provincially administered LMA programs have been tailored to meet individual job seekers needs so that they may quickly train and move into employment in needed fields. In Powell River, the LMA programs help job seekers to train for entry level work, or to up-skill into medium or higher level positions within small and medium sized companies.

The need for employers to put forward matching dollars for each training program, would mean that the Canada Jobs Grant program would be used almost exclusively by larger employers (who often have the money already to train their staff). Small and medium sized employers in rural areas would be excluded from the benefits of this program, and we will see the further drain of skilled workers from our communities into the higher paying corporate or oilfield jobs where the larger companies will be touting free training as an incentive.

The LMA money can be best administered locally by the provinces to meet their needs, and LMA programs can be rolled out quickly to address sudden changes in the labour market.

We support the need to increase and improve training opportunities for British Columbians, but are convinced that the Canada's Job Grant, at the demise of the current LMA program and structure is the wrong tool to address this need.

Yours truly,

Lyn Adamson

Program Director



el 604 485 9825 — fal 604 485 2822

The Honourable Christy Clark Premier of British Columbia PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

September 27, 2013

Re: Canada Job Grant Program and Labour Market Agreement

Dear Premier Clark,

On behalf of the Powell River Regional Economic Development Society (PRREDS) I am writing to express our organization's strong opposition to the changes the Federal Government is proposing to make in how it funds its Labour Market Agreement with the Government of British Columbia and the proposed Canada Job Grant program.

Although the system isn't perfect, PRREDS believes that the employment assistance programs delivered by the BC Government under the current Labour Market Agreement provide the necessary supports to get people back to work as quickly as possible. Like many rural BC Communities, Powell River is working hard to diversify its economy by developing new industries and sectors that haven't traditionally been part of the community's makeup in the past. A large part of the success of the community's diversification efforts relies on the employment programs current being delivered by the Provincial Government to transition workers to new professions and ready younger workers to secure jobs in the new industries being developed. It would be devastating to Powell River's efforts to create new jobs and sources of revenue if the Federal Government were to change the funding formula for the LMA as current programming would be dramatically impacted.

Our Society also strongly believes that the proposed 'Canada Job Grant' program will only be of use to larger businesses and corporations. A majority of the 1200 businesses operating in the Powell River region are small to medium sized, and do not have the financial resources available to provide \$5000 in matching funds for training programs. PRREDS believes that the funding being allocated to this program would be better used supporting existing employment programs being delivered under the LMA with the BC Government.

In closing, the Powell River Regional Economic Development Society strongly urges the Federal Government to continue to fund the Labour Market Agreement it has with the BC Government at its current levels and not pursue the proposed 'Canada Job Grant' program.

Yours Truly,

Scott Randolph Manager



THE RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER

4325 Blackcomb Way www.whistler.ca

TEL 604 932 5535 FAX 604 935 8109

October 2, 2013

The Honourable Christy Clark Premier of British Columbia Box 9041 Station PROV GOVT Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Re: Canada Job Grant

Dear Premier.

This letter is to advise that Council of the Resort Municipality of Whistler, at their Regular meeting held on October 1, 2013, passed a resolution to send a letter to your attention addressing Whistler's concerns regarding the proposed Canada Job Grant under the 2013 Federal Budget. Specifically, Council would like to address concerns on how the Canada Job Grant (GJG) would affect the government funded training programs like the British Columbia Labour Market Agreement (LMA), Work BC Employment Service Centers, and program participants as a whole.

Currently, the British Columbia LMA is one of the key funding mechanisms to address British Columbia's labour and skill shortages. The LMA was introduced in 2007, and in six years has successfully funded training and development (through Work BC Employment Service Centers and others) for participants with positive results. Some of these results include:

- 90% of participants reported the services sufficiently prepared them for employment opportunities.
- Approximately 84% of participants surveyed reported that they either were employed or in school three months after the end of their program.
- Businesses have no direct costs or time commitments to obtain successful participants as employees.
- Employment services for low-skilled participants are offered through learning assessments. counseling, resume writing/job interview assistance, and one-on-one coaching sessions.
- Different learning methods are eligible including workplace-based training by the employer.
- The LMA plans to implement the ten-year Youth Skills Training Plan, which is currently in development by the Province of British Columbia to include future employment success for today's youth.

With the proposed implementation of the CJG, our concerns are that proposed changes will jeopardize the success of current training programs already in place, particularly those programs that help people who need additional support to find jobs. With the significant loss of \$300 million in federal funding, many employers may be unable or unwilling to pay the \$5,000 per employee required to trigger the grant.

We request that the federal government reconsider the Canada Job Grant funded out of provincial Labour Market Agreements and continue to work with the provincial governments to develop new approaches in relation to existing Labour Market Agreements to meet Canada's need for skilled workers.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at mayor@whistler.ca or 1-(604)-935-8101.

Sincerely. n. Wilhelm-Morden

Nancy Wilhelm-Morden

Mayor