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O'NEILL-GORDON

Member of Parliament for Miramichi
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**Protecting Jobs and supporting
Families and Businesses**

E-News
Staying connected
February 2009

Dear Constituent,

As you may know, the global economic downturn is forcing businesses in our community to temporarily lay-off workers as a result of production slowdowns. However, Canada's Economic Action Plan delivers support for businesses and families during the global economic crisis with his [Work-Sharing program](#).

Workers who qualify for the Work-Sharing program agree to work a reduced work-week and have the salary they receive from their employer augmented by EI income benefits.

By taking these actions, our plan will help workers and their families get through this difficult time.

Also, the global economic recession is making it harder for businesses and families to gain [access to financing](#) for purchasing machinery, equipment, vehicles and homes.

Our government's Economic Action Plan takes serious steps to help Canadian families and businesses through the turmoil.

You will find out some details on these programs below, but if you have any concerns regarding it, feel free to contact us.

I'm wishing you a wonderful Month of February!

Yours sincerely,

Tilly

Helpful Links

[Guide to benefits offered by the Government of Canada](#)

www.servicecanada.gc.ca

[Health Canada](#)

[Environment Canada](#)

[Government of New Brunswick](#)

Making it Easier To Save

Work-Sharing :

The Government will extend, over the next two years, work-sharing agreements by 14 weeks, to a maximum of 52 weeks, to help businesses recover from the global economic downturn. It is expected that this extension will cost \$200 million over the next two years.

Based on joint application by the employer and employees, the Work-Sharing program allows qualifying workers to receive Employment Insurance benefits in exchange for a reduced work-week while their employer recovers.

The Working Sharing program helps:

- Workers avoid the hardship of a temporary lay-off
- Businesses retain valuable employees
- Maintain company morale
- Avoid unnecessary re-training costs.

Employers who are interested in the Work-Sharing Program should contact their local Service Canada Centre or call 1 800 O-Canada to apply. For more information about the program visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca.

Access to financing:

The Conservative government is taking a variety of different actions to increase Canadians' ability to access credit, as laid out in Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Measures include:

- A new Secured Credit Financing Facility which helps both families and businesses gain financing for major equipment purchases like a new family car or helps businesses buy key equipment.
- Increasing the funding that is available for businesses through Export Development Canada and the Business Development Bank of Canada.
- Delivering support for entrepreneurs trying to get a small business off the ground with an increase to small business loans through the Canada Small Business Financing Program
- Encouraging Canada's private-sector lenders to offer more by increasing the capacity of the Insured Mortgage Purchase Program

Please feel free to forward this to anyone you think might be interested.

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