

ISSUE

The 2008–09 global recession has taken its toll on the Canadian economy and jobs. The proportion of people working is decreasing. The quality of jobs is deteriorating. More people are in precarious employment. The federal government continues to focus on debt reduction through program and service cuts rather than investment in economic and employment growth.

CONTEXT

The employment rate, which measures the proportion of the working population, dropped from 63.7% in February 2008 to 61.3% in February 2015. Employment growth has stalled over the past year and half. Many unemployed persons have given up looking for work or have been forced to take on precarious employment.

According to reports from two major Canadian banks, the level of precarious employment has risen significantly after the recession of 2008. Low quality jobs are usually associated with lower wages, less predictability of income as well as work scheduling. The uncertainty and instability of precarious employment increase the stress level on individuals and families. Precarious employment has kept individuals and families in poverty.

The federal government has ignored calls from various sectors to tackle the sluggish economy and weak job market. Instead, it has produced consecutive austerity budgets that have eliminated over 28,000 public service jobs and have cut services in areas such as health care, environmental protection, food safety and inspection, human rights, veteran affairs, science and research.

At the same time, it lost billions of dollars in revenue with tax cuts to corporations and the rich. In 2013, Corporate Canada was sitting on \$626 billion of unused cash which could have been invested in the economy and job creation.

A vote is an opportunity that individuals have to voice their opinion on Canada's economy and job quality. They can choose a government that will put economic growth and good jobs at the top of its priority list. They can choose a government that will create a tax system that is fair and inclusive.

QUESTIONS

- What will your party do to increase employment and improve job quality?
- Where does your party stand on balancing the budget versus economic and employment growth?
- Does your party support a more fair and progressive tax system for both businesses and individuals?

RESOURCES

For more information and additional fact sheets in this series:
<http://spno.ca/canada-votes-2015>

