



THE HARPER RECORD

Edited by Teresa Healy



CCPA
CANADIAN CENTRE
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Teresa Healy, Ottawa

Preface

THE CCPA HAS previously published assessments of the Martin, Chrétien and Mulroney governments. *The Harper Record*, however, is the most ambitious effort to date, thanks to the vision and energy of its editor Teresa Healy. Her accomplishment in bringing together the policy expertise of some 47 contributors from across civil society is truly remarkable. My thanks to the Canadian Labour Congress for endorsing this project and for freeing up her time during these last four months to devote to it.

The CCPA is non-partisan in that we are not connected with any political party. Where we have a partisan bias, however, is for *progressive* policies. We research, develop and promote policies that advance the values of a just, sustainable and democratic society. These values are consistent with those embedded in the *UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and its related covenants and declarations.

Progressive policies require a leading role for the federal government in managing the economy; in providing public infrastructure and vital services; in educating our children and youth; protecting our health and our environment; protecting our citizens in times of unemployment, infirmity, disability and old age. Policies that address the great challenges of our time — climate change, inequality and poverty, and peace — are at the heart of what should define a progressive government.

We critique policies that move us away from these values and priorities. The essential question the authors address in this volume is: do Conservative government policies meet the progressive test outlined above? The short answer is No. The Harper government's policies are moving our country backwards toward a vision of society, the role of government, and the nature of the federation reminiscent of the 1920s. To gain a deeper understanding of the Harper government's record and why this is so, I encourage you to read on....

Bruce Campbell

Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives