



Alternative Federal Budget 2004

FACT SHEET:

Invest in a sustainable future

The AFB invests in our collective, global future – the one world we all share – through revitalized international development and peace building, improved supports for Canada's low income families, stronger pension protection, and a greater emphasis on energy conscious policies, including movement towards more sources of renewable energy.

The AFB will:

- Use fiscal incentives and disincentives to contribute to an environmentally sustainable economy.
- Limit taxpayer assistance to the fossil fuel sector to encourage companies to make the transition to sustainable energy operations, with much greater emphasis on low-impact renewables and energy efficiency.
- Earmark a portion of the gas tax to a green transportation fund; invest in sustainable energy sources.
- Allocate \$180 million annually over 10 years to support farmers' transition to bio-intensive integrated pest management and organic farming practices, and support research into alternative farming methods
- Increase aid by 12 % annually, rather than the current commitment of 8%. Cancel all outstanding foreign debt to poorer countries and support a fair debt arbitration process for other highly indebted developing countries.
- Increase the Canadian contribution to the AIDS pandemic in Africa by an additional \$350 million, and inject another \$800 million into the Canada Fund for Africa.
- Focus aid on innovative approaches related to gender equality, agriculture, the participation of civil society, and peace building.
- Substantially reduce the incidence of child poverty by consolidating the Canada Child Tax Benefit into a single program that provides a maximum benefit of \$4,900 per child to families in poverty.
- Separate the newly created Canada Social Transfer (CST) from the post-secondary education transfer, and increase it to help restore the federal share of social assistance payments.
- Increase the Old Age Security (OAS) benefits for the most vulnerable seniors. Increase funding to HRDC's Social Development Partnerships Program by \$5 million.

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