

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

We, the undersigned residents of Kingston and the Islands, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following consensus from a recent public forum on income inequality:

THAT the evidence demonstrates a continuing, even accelerating rise in income inequality, turning Canada into an ever more unequal society in which equality of opportunity and intergenerational income mobility have been seriously eroded;

THAT the evidence also points to the lion's share of economic benefits flowing from federal government legislative and other changes over the past decade (including programs, regulations, trade treaties, investments, services to business, tax cuts and, especially, tax expenditures) having accrued to higher income earners while the negative impacts (including lower wages and benefits, unemployment, precarious employment and an eroded social safety net which no longer suffices to mitigate today's harsh job market) have mainly fallen on those on the lower rungs of Canada's economic ladder;

THAT during that same period our elected Members of Parliament have neither been provided with detailed analyses of the projected impacts of each proposed measure on different segments of Canadian society, nor been given reasonable opportunities for meaningful debate on those measures, including ways to reduce the negative impacts on their more vulnerable constituents;

THAT we Canadians want to live in a society that promotes equality of opportunity and provides all individuals and families seeking to improve their circumstances with reasonable prospects for so doing;

