

To all Federal Party Leaders:

We are writing to you today on behalf of the 175,000 members of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce network.

The current financial crisis is taking a severe toll on all Canadians and despite our many strengths, Canada cannot escape the global downturn. In this regard, we find it disappointing that the discourse since the tabling of the Economic Update has been almost exclusively focused on political gains and posturing.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce and all Canadians are looking to all elected officials and especially party leaders, to unite their efforts and demonstrate leadership in putting forth a strategy, including a stimulus package, to boost consumer confidence and ensure sustainability of the Canadian economy.

The announcement by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty today outlining the ability for the Government to take emergency measures if Canada's financial crisis worsens is not enough. Concrete measures must be put in place well in advance of a January 27 budget.

The Board of Directors of the Canadian Chamber will be issuing recommendations to the Government to respond to the critical factors fuelling the financial crisis, such as the access to credit, stock market turbulence and currency fluctuations, upon the conclusion of its meeting on Tuesday, December 2.

It is critical that all parties unite their efforts and focus all of their energies on identifying positive solutions. It is high time to stop playing political games – Canadians deserve no less from their elected officials.

Hon. Perrin Beatty
President and CEO
Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Roger Thomas
Chair, Board of Directors
Canadian Chamber of Commerce