

May 6, 2015

The Honourable Greg Dewar
Room 234
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Dewar,

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) is disappointed to hear the Manitoba government is considering further alterations to the province's balanced budget legislation prior to restoring it, but we are pleased with the commitment to consultations on the matter. Therefore, the CTF is committed to participating in consultations regarding balanced budget legislation at the earliest opportunity.

In the meantime, the CTF would like to make key recommendations.

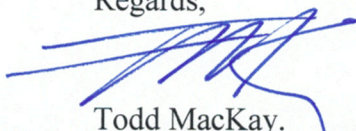
First, the consultations themselves have to be open and transparent. The public must be allowed to participate and observe. Media must be given full access. And opposition parties must be full participants with the ability to ask presenters questions and provide their own recommendations.

Second, our principle recommendation is simple: reinstate the original *Balanced Budget, Debt Repayment and Taxpayer Protection Act*. The government has committed to reinstating balanced budget legislation and that commitment must be kept prior to making any changes.

On a specific note, as a matter of trust, the government must immediately restore the salary penalties mandated by Manitoba's balanced budget legislation to be enforced against cabinet members who are responsible for deficit budgets. Currently, the government has arbitrarily reduced those penalties. This is in contravention of the spirit of the law as well as the expectations of voters. The CTF calls on the Manitoba government to immediately reinstate penalties to be enforced against cabinet members who are responsible for deficits.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in consultations regarding Manitoba's balanced budget legislation. We look forward to working with you to restore this vital legislation as soon as possible.

Regards,



Todd MacKay.