

Small business is bleeding

Everyone knows you don't kick someone when they're down.

But that's what the federal government's recent budget did to many small business owners who are struggling to stay afloat or striving to take their new ventures to the next level of growth.

While the budget did include some small business relief measures, it also increased the capital gains inclusion rate.

The capital gains hike generated blowback from groups such as the Council of Canadian Innovators (CCI), who claimed the new taxes will stifle tech entrepreneurs trying to grow their businesses and cause "irreparable harm" to Canada's entrepreneur-based economy.

Other groups worried the tax increase was another nail in the coffin for Canada's small business sector. Dan Kelly, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), said he was concerned that the budget measures had the "potential to demotivate Canadians from getting into business in the first place."

It's not just crushing taxes that are hurting small businesses. It's also job-killing regulations. Earlier this month, the CFIB published a blog by Simon Gaudreault, Chief Economist and Vice-President of Research at the organization.

Gaudreault argued that we could dramatically increase Canada's productivity by reducing unnecessary red tape and regulation. According to Gaudreault, we could free up 205 million hours of time, or approximately \$11 billion of squandered money, which could have otherwise gone toward more productive tasks.

The CFIB's most recent "Canada's Red Tape Report," published in 2021, had a revealing finding: although red tape ties up many businesses, it chokes the life out of small business. According to the report, the 2020 cost of regulation per employee for small businesses with fewer than five employees was an incredible five times more than for businesses with over 100 employees.

Canada's small business owners tell me all the time how they're being stifled. An entrepreneur shared the following with me a few months ago: "The barriers to entry, compounded by the burden of taxation and the absence of incentives, have increasingly cast a

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shadow over the once-thriving entrepreneurial spirit. Like many of my peers, I find myself at a crossroads where the perceived risks outweigh the potential rewards, a realization that saddens me deeply. It is disheartening to witness the erosion of confidence in the entrepreneurial journey, particularly when confronted with the stark reality that the risk-reward balance no longer tips in our favour."

One small business owner and founder bemoaned the current state of affairs by saying that "entrepreneurs are swimming upstream in Canada today." And yet another said: "I will certainly not be endorsing any young person to start a business in this country until things change drastically."

These heart-felt sentiments are a devastating indictment of a system that is crushing the life out of Canada's once-proud entrepreneurial spirit.

Canada's small businesses are bleeding, and if we don't stop the haemorrhaging by reducing taxes and slashing red tape, a growing number of them are going to go under or simply close up shop.

The National Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities I've proposed would require government to remove excessive regulations that stifle economic growth and unshackle small businesses by eliminating business tax on any small business with fewer than 300 employees.

If we reduced regulations and lower taxes, small businesses could grow like wildfire. It's one of the key principles in the economic charter of rights I've proposed. And it's the badly needed shot in the arm that Canada's economy needs right now.

To learn more about how the charter could help revitalize Canada's small business sector, contact info@economiccharter.ca.

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and the Stronach Foundation for Economic Rights (www.economiccharter.ca).

Stratford-Perth Archives celebrate Mother's Day

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PERTH COUNTY – Mother's Day has been celebrated in Canada since 1914. Ten years later, in 1924, Stratford and the towns and villages in Perth County celebrated the day with special services throughout the churches. Below are articles from the Stratford Beacon Herald and the Atwood Bee that reported on the special services held to mark the occasion.

Stratford Beacon Herald, May 12, 1924, Mitchell Mother's Day Observed

Sunday, May 11th, Mother's Day, was observed in all churches in Mitchell, and as the weather was delightful, there were large congregations at all of the services. In Knox Church, Rev. Mr. Newton, of Windsor, preached sermons in keeping with Mother's Day, and in the morning a beautiful part of the service was the singing of a choir of 35 children, under the leadership of Miss Gladys Black.

In the Methodist Church, the pastor, Rev. H.D. Moyer, preached sermons from the subjects "Mother, in Home and State" and "Modern foes of Motherhood," "in which he brought out many good points which were full of food for thought.

An open session of the Sunday School was held in the afternoon and there was a program for Mother's Day, which was composed of hymns, responsive readings, etc., which had been prepared for this day. The opening part of the program was taken by J.B. Schneider, the assistant superintendent, who was in charge owing to the ab-

sence of the superintendent, F.A. Campbell.

A recitation, "My Mother," was given by Joy Kemp; prayer for mothers unable to be present. William McLagan; solo, A. J. Blowes; recitation, "Mothers Mine," Olive Jordon. A fine address was made by the pastor, in which he had many good things to say about mothers.

A quartet number by Mr. Moyer, Mr. Schneider, Miss Woodger and Miss Helen Moyer was appreciated. Responsive reading was led by Mrs. Eisler. Rev. W.H. Roberts, rector of Trinity Church, was at his best and his sermons which were full of pathos, were listened to with intent eagerness by large congregations. There was a large attendance at the Sunday School in the afternoon and the program consisted of Mother's Day recitations, songs, etc., by members of the school.

Stratford Beacon Herald, May 12, 1924, Stratford Special Tribute Paid To Mothers In Churches And Sunday Schools

Fine weather favored the observance of "Mother's Day" in Stratford on Sunday and there were large gatherings at the city churches and Sunday Schools. Appropriate sermons were preached by the clergy and the music was of special

character.

Interest in the day was evidenced at Central Methodist Church by the large congregations. The pastor, Rev. J.W. Magwood, preached a special Mother's Day sermon in the morning.

Marsh Magwood sang very feelingly the beautiful song "Mother O' Mine." There was a magnificent attendance at the special "Go To Sunday School Day, in the afternoon.

A pleasing feature was the presentation of a shower bouquet to Mrs. J. Dunsmore, the mother who has seen the longest service in the Sunday School of the Central Methodist Church.

In the Teen age Department, a bouquet was given in honor of mothers in general. Miss W. Rankin who was presiding received the flowers. Miss. R. Newton, with a very appropriate address, made the presentation.

Special music, song and addresses marked Mother's Day at the Salvation Army. The morning meeting was addressed by Adjutant Wright.

He paid a fitting tribute to Motherhood as well as speaking on the annual Self-Denial Campaign and the variety of the work being carried on among the unfortunate by the Army.

At night Adjutant White addressed a large audience on the devotion and sacrifice of Mother's love and

influence. He said that the day affords an opportunity of paying tribute to our county-women. Reference was also made to the tribute which the great statesmen and leaders invariably give to their mothers.

Other churches in Stratford that held special services on the day were: Trinity Methodist, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, and Memorial Baptist.

Atwood Bee, May 15, 1924

Mother's Day Service

The Mothers' Day service in the Methodist church was largely attended on Sunday morning. One important feature was the presentation of sprays of snapdragons to Mrs. J.A. Turnbull and Mrs. Richard Coghlin. These good ladies have been members of the Atwood church longer than any other members of the congregation. The primary class of the Sunday School sang an appropriate chorus. The pastor spoke on "The Influence of Mother." The service throughout was most impressive.

Happy Mother's Day from Stratford-Perth Archives!

Stratford-Perth Archives welcomes donations to the collection and is open for drop-in research from Tuesday to Friday plus other times, including Saturdays, by appointment. For details about what's available during Reading Room drop-in hours and appointments for in-depth research, please visit www.perthcounty.ca/StratfordPerthArchives, call us at 519-271-0531, ext. 259 or email archives@perthcounty.ca.

Life as a person of colour in North Perth

The golden rule states, "treat others as you would like to be treated," but many people don't follow this guide. I experience this often. I am a person of colour and living in a predominantly white community. This article is to share my perspective and help others learn how to be more inclusive.

I'm not going to say living in Listowel is horrible and my life has never been good because that's not the case. I would just like people to know how small actions can have an impact, one way or another.

On a regular basis, my siblings and I experience unfavourable words and actions based on our skin colour. People will share negative comments seemingly without any thought or reflection.

I have heard many black jokes or comments like I should go pick cotton. I hear people use the N word in conversation like it's nothing, and it has been used

directly towards me.

While North Perth is changing, we are still a "white" community. Our exposure to different races, cultures, and religions is still limited. People of a dominant culture or race have privilege and can't relate to the harm caused by racist statements. Even in school, students still don't have that much exposure to different cultures. I don't see myself in the books we read, the videos we watch, or the lessons we learn.

The internet can make things worse. It has allowed those who want to be intentionally rude to hide behind fake or anonymous accounts to make rude comments. My sister has experienced this directly.

People's actions do reflect what



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they think and believe, even if it is on a subconscious level. Stereotypes or assumptions exist, and they cause more harm. I've heard all the common phrases: watermelon, fried chicken, monkey, grape juice, gorilla and more. I am mixed and my mom is white. I will be asked if I am adopted or you can see a person's surprise when they find out she is my biological mom.

My siblings have been bullied because of how tight our hair is curled. My brother has an afro and wants to get dreads. He constantly has people comment negatively on his hair. In the past he has even shaved his head to avoid comments. My sister will straighten her hair to avoid comments.

This all impacts their mental health. My brother struggles with school and communication when he needs something. He always tries to do things on his own. He will often fight back. My sister

has to be a certain appearance to feel normal and feels the need to be involved with all of her friends' social interaction.

While there might be many factors that contribute to these issues, treatment as people of colour is definitely one of them.

We can all be part of the solution, but we all need to reflect on ourselves. People will say, "I am not racist," but by saying that, you are acknowledging that you are not trying to get better. That's like saying you don't see colour. My skin is a sense of my identity and ignoring it is like you don't see me for who I am, or my struggles.

We are part of a system that is racist and if you want to help with racism, then be anti-racist! This means you don't agree with racism and you are making an effort to look at ways you can be better in supporting everyone. You can become more educated about other people's experienc-

es (what's happened, how they overcame it, what helped, why did it happen). If you learn about the things people face when going somewhere new you can understand more about different races, stereotypes, cultures etc. Empower someone by listening to them and don't make them feel differently than you just because you have different beliefs and traditions. Have the courage to try new things you haven't heard. Be part of the change.

I hope you can understand more about the impact on someone that's a different race than their community.

Take what I've said and place it in your daily life. My siblings and I are just a few people and these are just things we have experienced. We hope everyone can work to listen, learn, and be kind.

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