

## **Provincial Budget Consultations**

### **Feb. 24, 2015**

### **Labrador City**

One of the major issues facing our province at this time is the drop in oil prices. While this is unfortunate and hangs as a dark cloud over us it also has a silver lining. As I understand it the provincial gas tax is currently about 25 cents a liter, I suggest raising this by 15 cents and then dropping it by 5 cents for each 33% increase in oil price until we are back to the price of oil as of two years ago with tax than back at the 25 cent level.

I realize that nobody likes to be laid off but I also realize that at times this becomes necessary, that time is now. I would suggest that every supervisor be requested to justify eliminating at least one position in his group. This would be passed up the line until all supervisors have sent a report up to ADM level. Than action happens.

I look around on the highways today and am amazed at the number of light vehicles with government license plates. While it is nice to have a company vehicle I think this has morphed into a perk that we can no longer afford. Once again I suggest every supervisor be told to eliminate at least one vehicle when the lease is up and that this be followed up within six months.

I also wonder about the actual use of government vehicles and suggest that you immediately purchase 25 GPS trackers and install one of each in random vehicles for a period of two weeks until all vehicles have been tracked and any that have been used for non work related or frivolous use be taken away from the user.

I think that as unfortunate as it is, the time has come to increase the GST, I realize that this action needs to be coordinated with the Atlantic provinces but think we should start talks on this immediately. This is not something to be taken lightly or in isolation but I think it should be on the table.

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