

**TRANSCRIPT: Lisa Raitt on Conservative Cuts**

**TRANSCRIPTION : Lisa Raitt au Sujet des Compressions Budgétaires des Conservateurs**

**QUESTION:** Should people expect cutbacks in the public service if a Conservative government is elected?

**RAITT:** Quite frankly that's on the assumption that absolutely everything that the government has brought in in the past 4 years is something that has worked. You start from the notion that we take a look at the spending items that the government has sought to do – and they've done many, many things that are actually not connected to what services Canadians receive at all – when we are elected in October we will take a serious look at where the government is functioning and, just like we've done in the past, we will not be putting services to Canadians at risk.

**QUESTION:** What's not connected – can you give an example?

**RAITT:** Well first off, obviously, when you're elected you take a look at what's been happening in terms of spending. **If you look at Ontario**, you' would see that when the government there was elected most recently, they went in and they realized that the Ontario government was spending \$40 million a day more than what they took in. It's that kind of information we'll receive when we become the government in October and we'll take a look. The first premise of what we want to accomplish is to make sure that Canadian families can not only get ahead but they are also achieving what they want to achieve in their lives. We know that will have to be balanced and we will absolutely do that. It is not a case of saying we want to lower taxes and the corollary is that we are going to cut services because that is not necessarily the conjunction between the two. The reality is that we want to manage better, we want to reduce taxes – we believe that reducing taxes helps the economy. It helps people go back into the economy – right now, because people feel the pressure and the stress, they're taking a look at whether or not they'll be buying. Consumer confidence has decreased this year and it's going to decrease in the coming years as people feel that pinch even more.

**QUESTION:** How are you going to eliminate the deficit and give tax breaks at the same time?

**RAITT:** Well we're going to be talking about that this year. **We've done that in the past, Julie as you know, in our government in 2011 to 2015** and it takes a lot of hard work but it also takes, it also takes the actual desire to want to do that. That we just don't treat Canadian families as a source of revenue that we continuously go to in order to bring in more money when we have a project that we want to do that we deem to be important. Canadians understand that. They are at their max.

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