

For immediate release

Public Service Professionals warn “cuts must not impact safety”

Ottawa, March 29, 2012 – According to Professionals Serving Canadians, a coalition of six public service unions representing more than 75,000 government professionals, the 2012 federal budget risks cutting vital programs and services that serve to protect the safety and security of Canadians.

“This budget continues with the drastic reduction of the public service to meet the bottom line, but at what cost? We are very concerned that programs critical to the safety and security of Canadians are impacted,” said Gary Corbett on behalf of the coalition. “Billions of dollars in cuts means that a great many services will be affected. Our public service professionals ensure safe food and skies, clean air and water, and secure and prosperous communities. These must not be put in jeopardy by across-the-board cuts.”

The measures taken in this budget mean billions of dollars in cuts to public programs and services against the advice of a growing chorus of experts. They mean billions of dollars wasted on unnecessary contracting out that undermines transparency and accountability in the federal public service; and they mean the elimination of departmental programs and services that Canadians rely on to protect the environment for future generations.

“Canadians don’t believe industry self-regulation makes our food or skies safer, nor do they agree with reduced environmental protection. Regulation is the duty of unbiased, non-partisan public sector professionals, not industry.” Said Mr. Corbett, “This budget must not support such ideology.”

Our Public Service Professionals, have come together to launch our SafetyEh.ca campaign to inform Canadians of the impact that these cuts will have on their communities. It will engage Canadians to protect the vital public services that they depend on day-in and day-out.”

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The member unions of the “Professionals Serving Canadians” coalition represent more than 75,000 scientists, engineers, pilots, medical professionals, diplomats, economists, lawyers, IT specialists, auditors and financial officers, as well as many other professionals working at federal departments and agencies

Professionals Serving Canadians (PSC) includes: The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC), the Association of Canadian Financial Officers (ACFO), the Canadian Association of Professional Employees (CAPE), the Canadian Federal Pilots Association (CFPA), the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers (PAFSO), and the Association of Justice Counsel (AJC).

Visit Professionals Serving Canadians at: www.SafetyEh.ca.