



2011FIN345991

DEC 15 2011

Mr. Brian A. MacDonald  
200-656 Windmill Road  
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1B8

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 15, 2011 regarding Budget 2011. Please excuse the delay in replying.

Standard budget protocol dictates that the Department of Finance Canada not share the information you requested prior to the release of the budget. Indeed, it is necessary that all financial information contained in the budget be released to the public at one time. That being said, with the re-introduction of the budget on June 6, 2011 we can provide you with the following information:

- The size of Budget 2011 (new measures net of saving measures) is \$3.5 billion over 5 years. This amount is the five-year sum of the "Total (net of Savings)" line in Table 5.5 on page 191, plus the five-year sum of the New Measure "Subtotal" line in Table 5.6 on page 192. The largest Budget 2011 measure is the \$2.2 billion provision for an agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec on sales tax harmonization.
- The deficit is projected to be \$36.2 billion in 2010-11 and \$32.3 billion in 2011-12, after which it is expected to improve steadily, reaching a surplus of \$4.2 billion in 2015-16. Details regarding this projection can be found in Chapter 5 of Budget 2011.
- The current federal debt-to-Gross Domestic Product ratio (2010-11) is expected to be 34 percent. It is expected to climb slightly in 2011-12 to 34.3 percent, before declining over the remainder of the projection period to 29.7 percent in 2015-16. Details can be found in Table 5.7 on page 194.

For more information about Budget 2011, you can consult the electronic version, which can be viewed online at [www.budget.gc.ca/2011/home-accueil-eng.html](http://www.budget.gc.ca/2011/home-accueil-eng.html). You can also consult the Fiscal Reference Tables, which contain historical data on expenditure, revenue, budgetary balance and debt, projected in Budget 2011 on the Department of Finance Canada website at [www.fin.gc.ca/frt-trf/2010/frt-trf-10-eng.asp](http://www.fin.gc.ca/frt-trf/2010/frt-trf-10-eng.asp).

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Gauthier', with a stylized flourish at the end.

N. Gauthier  
A/Head  
Departmental Correspondence Unit