

EI rate freeze is good news: MP

The Harper government recently announced that Employment Insurance rates that employers and employees pay will be frozen for the next three years. This means that businesses and their employees in Oak Ridges-Markham will be keeping more money in their pockets, which is great news for our local economy ? especially our small businesses.

Our government understands that small business is a cornerstone of the economy which is why we have introduced numerous measures to assist in job creation, such as a hiring credit to help businesses grow and expand their workforces.

Small business has been instrumental in Canada's recovery from the recent global economic downturn. In fact, with the help of small businesses, Canada has created over one million net new jobs since the end of the global recession ? the best record among all the G-7 countries.

That's why our government is staying focused on the economy. The recently announced three-year freeze on EI rates means that rates for employees and employers will stay at or below the 2013 level (\$1.88 per \$100 of insurable earnings) until 2016. This will leave \$660 million in the pockets of job creators and workers in 2014 alone, compared to what they would have otherwise had to pay under the projected formula. This means more money stays in Oak Ridges-Markham, helping to support our local economy.

I'm proud that the Harper government is promoting such a positive plan for the economy.

Paul Calandra, MP

Oak Ridges-Markham