



Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

Protecting Jobs:

The Work-Sharing program is Helping More Workers Stay on the Job

For immediate release.

OSHAWA 19 February 2009— Oshawa MP Colin Carrie announced today that the Conservative government will help to protect employees that might otherwise be laid-off during a temporary slowdown by expanding the Work-Sharing program.

As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government will extend, over the next two years, work-sharing agreements by 14 weeks, to a maximum of 52 weeks, to help businesses recover from the global economic downturn. It is expected that this extension will cost \$200 million over the next two years.

“The problems facing businesses in our community didn't start here in Canada,” said Carrie, “The impact that the global economic downturn is having on our businesses will be temporary and we want to try and help prevent layoffs wherever possible. The Work-Sharing program will help businesses minimize the number of layoffs they have to make during a slowdown.”

Based on joint application by the employer and employees, the Work-Sharing program allows qualifying workers to receive Employment Insurance benefits in exchange for a reduced work-week while their employer recovers.

The Working Sharing program helps:

- Workers avoid the hardship of a temporary lay-off
- Businesses retain valuable employees
- Maintain company morale
- Avoid unnecessary re-training costs.

“By minimizing layoffs and working with both businesses and employees, we are ensuring that more individuals will keep their jobs and more businesses will stay afloat,” said Carrie, “Forestry and manufacturing companies make use of work-sharing agreements to keep people employed during a production slowdown. Extending these agreements to a maximum of 52 weeks will protect more jobs in many critical industries.”

Employers who are interested in the Work-Sharing Program should contact their local Service Canada Centre or call 1 800 O-Canada to apply. For more information about the program visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca.

- 30 -

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Adrian Bugelli, Office of Colin Carrie MP, 905-440-4868

Constituency office

57 Simcoe St S Unit 2B
Oshawa, ON L1H 4G4
Tel 905.440.4868
Fax 905.440.4872
Email carrie.c@parl.gc.ca

Ottawa office

410 Justice Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel 613.996.4756
Fax 613.992.1357
Web: colincarriemp.ca