

Employer's hope Throne Speech will offer first look at Premier Dunderdale's slant on fiscal policy

NL Employers' Council Executive Director available for comment following today's Speech from the Throne

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March 21, 2011, St. John's, NL – The NL Employers' Council (NLEC), this province's leading advocacy group for employers on employment related matters, will be closely watching today's Speech from the Throne. The organization is anxious to see this government's plans for the coming months, and gain some insight on the direction of the upcoming provincial budget.

The organization is deeply concerned that government expenses have increased by 35.8% between 2006 and 2009 -- a rate of growth that is unsustainable. In addition, despite past investments into paying down the debt, our province's net debt per capita remains the second highest in Canada. Members of the NLEC are anxious to see what kind of Premier Kathy Dunderdale will be when it comes to fiscal priorities of her government. They have asked that government focus on fiscal restraint, continued debt reduction and tax competitiveness.

"We are hopeful that Premier Dunderdale will put our province's non-renewable oil revenue toward long term priorities of debt reduction and tax competitiveness," says Richard Alexander, NLEC Executive Director. "There is concern from our membership, however, that the Premier may give into election year pressure and increase spending for short term political gain."

The NLEC would like to see this government balance not necessarily what the public "wants", but what it "needs", with what the province can actually afford. They will be closely watching today's Speech from the Throne for an indication of what to expect.

Alexander will be available for comment following today's Speech from the Throne.

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The NLEC is the leading business advocacy group on matters affecting the employment relationship. Its membership employs over 50% of the province, excluding government.

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