

Farmers or politicians' boots? Know your manure

Margaret Bird - July 2024

The Trudeau government gets an angry reception as it promotes the federal budget. Indigenous leaders, disability groups, doctors, real estate investors, business groups, opposition Conservatives, and other political rivals of the Trudeau government, blasted measures that either didn't go far enough for some, or for others went too far. Pushback was fast and furious the day after the Liberals unveiled \$39.3 billion in net new spending along with a new tax increase that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said is targeted at the "ultra-rich" but medical professionals and others say will hit them hard.

Trudeau said that he's asking the 'ultra-rich' Canadians to pay their fair share. He also said that "Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre slammed the plan overall as an 'orgy of spending' that will not help ordinary Canadians."

"We know who will not pay," said Poilievre. "It will not be those with trust funds who protect their millions of inheritance, like the prime minister, nor the billionaires who invite him to their private Caribbean islands. They will hide their money." The one who will pay is the welder or waitress who cannot pay their mortgage because he has inflated the mortgage rates."

Such fiscal irresponsibility from the Liberals.

Neil Hetherington, chief executive officer of the Daily Bread Food Bank, said the \$200-a-month disability benefit tied to family income will do little to lift some 600,000 disabled Canadians out of poverty.

"What we saw in the budget absolutely does not represent what the legislation clearly dictated, and that legislation said it was going to lift people out of poverty and it doesn't," said Hetherington. With a budget like this, and so many convoluted layers of unacceptable plans to kill the growth of our nation, a very important question might well arise: 'How to tell the difference between a farmer and a politician? Surprisingly, the key is in something very visible.

According to John Snobelen on May 24, 2024, "telling the difference between farmer's boots and politician's boots is easy. Farmers boots have the manure on the outside."

The other difference is that farm manure helps grow things, while political manure is killing the country. That's particularly true when the political manure in question is the Trudeau government's latest effort to spread the old yarn about taxing the rich.

Taxing the rich is an old political story. It always ends the same way.

The politicians who spread this stuff want you to assume the rich are people who have, through some nefarious means, hoarded an untaxed fortune. This is, of course, only true of the lucky sods who win the lottery.

Trudeau's version of rich includes farmers, tradespeople, doctors and just about anyone else who manages to save a little money after paying their taxes. By golly, some of those folks manage to put away almost as much cash for retirement as a Trudeau backbencher has in that wonderful federal pension.

Trudeau, who knows a thing or two about family trusts, is going to tax those greedy rich people. We all know how this ends.

There are a few truths you'll never hear in a Trudeau budget. Truths like the middle class always carries the bulk of the burden of supporting a government. The poor have no money and there just aren't enough rich people.

The middle class ultimately pay the taxes collected from corporations. Corporations attract investment based on earnings after taxes. Put the tax rate up and corporations must pay workers less or charge consumers more. Either way, you and I pay.

The most dangerous thing about 'tax the rich' manure is that it spreads the lie that average people won't have to pay for government spending. That happy delusion can wreck a country. None of this is news. Over 2,000 years ago Lao Tzu noted that when taxes are high, people go hungry.

Farmers know better. It is a poor farmer who simply puts seed in the ground and expects to get a big harvest year after year. Good farmers know you must constantly invest in maintaining the soil if you want land to be productive for a generation.

Invest in the soil and the land will take care of generations. Get greedy and harvest crops without caring for the soil and the land will turn fallow. Farmers also know that not all years are good. It's wise to save a little in good times to carry through the tougher years. The people who have

manure on the outside of their boots are wise.

Not so much the people with manure on the inside. The Trudeau government couldn't care less about the future.

Increasing taxes might produce a one-time increase in government revenues, but that increase comes at a dear cost. High taxes discourage investment in the things the country needs to grow. While governments love to cut ribbons on "investments" of tax dollars in foreign owned manufacturing facilities, government policies discourage people from putting money into the small businesses that are the heart of the country.

Canada needs more entrepreneurs and more investment in research and development. Taxing the rich will get us less of both.

Oddly enough, the Trudeau government is having a hard time selling the latest 'tax the rich' scheme. Maybe they should talk to a farmer.

It would be nice if they could get the manure on the working side of their boots."