

**Abbott supports
33% wage hike**

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Mississauga MP Tony Abbott has called the government's now-defunct plan to raise salaries for members of Parliament by 50 per cent "a disastrous proposal," but supports the

33 percent raise now being considered.

Abbott said that since 1970 when MPs were given a raise to \$18,000 with an additional \$8,000 tax-free expense allowance, the value of the dollar has declined to less than 75 cents.

"I am now aware that many MPs are forced to go into debt," he added.

"When I stood for Parliament I knew the salary and did not arrive in Ottawa seeking a raise," Abbott said but "like all other Canadians I have found that inflation is making it more and more difficult to make ends meet."

For further details, see Abbott's column on page 7.