

Real Biography

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MN.

Starr, Ron



The president of the Missisquoi Board of Trade says we must all join together to save Canada's ailing economy.

"Canada's economic future is at risk unless all Canadian join the fight to reduce federal and provincial government deficits and debts," said Ron Starr who recently returned from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce annual convention in Edmonton.

"I wholeheartedly agree with

the Chamber's initiative to let business know where we stand as a nation."

He said the national debt is \$450 billion and gave some examples of how debts and deficits affect every Canadian.

- If we had to pay our share of the national debt today, we'd each owe \$17,000.
- The average family for four pays out \$125 a week to cover the interest charged on the federal

debt alone which is more than many families spend on food.

- The federal government pays \$95 million every day in interest costs on its debt which equals \$4 million an hour or \$65,000 per minute.

"We can't lay the blame for our poor economic health solely on the shoulders of the politicians," Starr said.

"It's true they make the spending decisions, but they are only re-

sponding to Canadians' demands for new and expanded programs."

He said the Chamber is calling on all citizens to go on "The Deficit Diet Plan."

That means "curbing our appetites" for government programs.

"We can no longer assume that when we need something, for example subsidies for business or a new community program, that we can automatically turn to the government to pay the costs," he

said.

"All Canadians must reduce their expectations of government.

"The business community is first in line to cut back on its consumption from the public purse.

"As in the case of the environment, governments will not act to reduce spending unless Canadians demonstrate that we are willing to make the necessary changes in our attitudes and lifestyles."

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Urges a 'Deficit Diet Plan'

Starr says we must all save the economy