



Canada's Federal Political Parties Respond to Tourism Industry's Election Questionnaire

Ottawa, October 7, 2008 – The Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC) has received replies from four of Canada's five main federal political parties in response to six vital issues put to them by the tourism sector at the outset of the general election. TIAC undertook this initiative in order to provide further depth of information to Canada's tourism sector on the positions of each of the parties as they pertain to six essential public policy areas for tourism.

The six issues the parties were asked to address include: aviation costs and air access; border infrastructure; marketing investment for the promotion of Canada overseas; securing Approved Destination Status from China; establishing a GST rebate for individual foreign visitors; and ensuring tourism has a sufficient supply of qualified staff.

"Tourism generates as much economic activity as forestry, fishing, agriculture combined," said TIAC President and CEO Randy Williams. "Any party wishing to govern in Canada must have a clear and coherent vision of the public policy initiatives that can be taken to ensure that Canada's tourism sector enjoys growth and prosperity into the future."

TIAC's questionnaire was distributed to all five parties in the week of September 15, and the parties were given until October 2 to respond. The responses of the Bloc Québécois, the Green Party of Canada, the Liberal Party of Canada and the New Democratic Party of Canada are reproduced faithfully on TIAC's website. The Conservative Party of Canada had as of today not responded to the questionnaire.

More information on the questionnaire, including the responses of the federal parties, can be found at www.tiac.travel, while further information on the issues facing Canada's tourism sector can be found on TIAC's special advocacy website: www.tourismmatters.travel.

"TIAC is grateful to the parties for their responses," concluded Williams. "We believe it will provide valuable insight on each party's views on this key sector to the 1.6 million Canadian voters who work in it."

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The Tourism Industry Association of Canada is the voice of Canadian tourism. Founded in 1930 to encourage the development of tourism in Canada, TIAC serves today as the national private-sector advocate for this \$70 billion industry, representing the interests of the tourism business community nation-wide.

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