

WARNING



**Is Paul Martin fit to be Canada's
Prime Minister?**

**Things you should know about Paul
Martin and his record**

Paul Martin
...is hazardous to your country.

Here's the record - you be the judge:

* Paul Martin reduced the number of unemployed eligible to receive UI from 74% to 38% and reduced the benefits for those who do quality.. The UI fund built up a huge \$40 billion surplus - billions were robbed from that surplus to pay down the deficit. This was not government money - it was premiums paid by workers and employers into an insurance fund. Paul Martin just took it anyway.

* Paul Martin is known for having "slain the deficit dragon" but in fact he did much more. In his 1995 budget speech Martin boasted not about bringing down the deficit (by slashing social spending) but of permanently changing what government does: **"Indeed, as far as we are concerned, it is this reform in the structure of government spending in the very redefinition of government itself that is the main achievement of this budget. ...This budget overhauls not only how government works but what government does."** In other words, Paul Martin used the excuse of the deficit to permanently reduce the role of government - whether in medicare, education, agriculture or food safety.

* Our next prime minister went on to boast about knocking Canada back to the 1950s: **"By 1996-97, we will have reduced program spending from \$120 billion in 1993-94 to under \$108 billion. Relative to the size of our economy, program spending will be lower in 1996-97 than at any time since 1951."** In fact he did even better. By 1997 we were spending at the same level as we were in 1949 - even though as a nation we were three times wealthier.

* There is a huge disconnect between what Paul Martin said in his public speeches as finance minister and what he actually did. This is Paul Martin in his 1996 budget speech: **"Let us act, not as special interests, but as stewards of the national interest — knowing that the destiny of our children is in our hands."** As he spoke those noble words there were nearly two million children in Canada living in poverty, an increase of 10% just in the two years he had been finance minister, and a higher proportion than almost any other industrialized country.

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* Despite his reputation for rescuing Canada's economy, Paul Martin's spending cuts in combination with his support for extremely low inflation targets, led to the 1990s being the worst decade of the century for the economy except for the 1930s: in terms of growth, unemployment, living standards, and productivity. While workers in the US saw their real wages go up 14% Canadians only regained 1989 levels in 1999.

* Paul Martin appears to be a decent politician, but behind the scenes is an absolutely ruthless back room team who will do anything to get their man elected. They have used numerous dirty tricks to stop other Liberal leadership candidates - making it almost impossible for them to sell memberships. When the CBC TV's Disclosure was going to broadcast an expose on Martin's shipping company, CSL, one of Martin's organizers, a former CBC Ottawa bureau chief, intervened and got the head of the CBC to pull the program just two hours before air time. (It eventually was shown.)

* Paul Martin's international shipping company uses the infamous "flag of convenience"(FOC) ships - considered corporate outlaws because they are registered in countries with virtually no taxes, and lax labour and environmental laws. The FOCs are notorious for terrible working conditions, wages one quarter of what industrial countries pay, and for their dreadful environmental record. Last year CSL fired its Australian workers on Australian ships and replaced them with Ukrainian workers, breaking the union.

* Paul Martin is already indicating he will follow the dictates of the BCNI (now the Canadian Council of Corporate Executives) again. Their agenda this time is called "deep integration" and calls for economic, military, foreign policy and immigrations policy to be fully harmonized. That means we give up our sovereignty. Martin has already agreed to support Star Wars II - George Bush's plan to militarize space. He is a close friend of Brian Mulroney and rumours in Ottawa claim he will use the most unpopular prime minister in Canadian history to help "mend fences" with the US.



Paul Martin: Taking from the poor to give to the rich

* In 1994, the BCNI (the voice of the 150 largest corporations in Canada) put out its policy prescription for the Liberal government: "A Ten Point Growth and Employment Strategy for Canada." Included in the formula for transforming Canada were: slashing UI, cutting social spending, keeping inflation low and unemployment high, large tax cuts for the corporate sector, minimal government, privatization and deregulation. Paul Martin delivered on every one of the ten demands from Bay Street.

* Paul Martin is the quintessential Bay Street Boy and Bay Street knows it. Even though he is already certain to win, Martin will raise close to \$8 million for his leadership campaign - almost as much as parties used to spend in a whole election just a few years ago. Most of this comes from large corporations who want something for their money. What will they expect in return?

* The Conference Board of Canada says the federal government can expect steadily rising surpluses - reaching \$80 billion by 2020. But a Paul martin government is determined to create a level playing field with the US to ensure a smooth integration. In 2001 he promised to spend 50% of the surplus. He didn't - in the end he spent just 8% in restoring social spending. The rest went to tax cuts and debt payment.

Are you are as concerned as we are about the damage Paul Martin will do to this country as Prime Minister? Join the campaign to expose Paul Martin at future events where he will be appearing Act now, before it's too late.

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