



## **Revenue Canada (2010 data) and Bev Oda shenanigans**

Warning: Reading these statistics and anecdotes may be hazardous to your wellbeing!

Every year Canadians pay an average of \$6,000 to the federal government (on taxable earnings) which spent \$299 billion in 2010. Where exactly is that money heading? Is it being well-spent? (Silly question meant to amuse and soothe the soul)!

### **Public safety (Canada Border Services, RCMP, spook factory CSIS, Correctional Services and emergency preparedness):**

Individual contribution: \$186.57  
Percentage of total tax bill: 3.10%  
Total spending: \$8.1 billion

### **Old Age Security program:**

Individual contribution: \$601.39  
Percentage of total tax bill: 9.99%  
Total spending: \$26.3 billion

### **Equalization payments:**

Individual contribution: \$307.42  
Percentage of total tax bill: 5.11%  
Total spending: \$13.4 billion

### **Foreign Affairs and International Trade:**

Our favorite department [*sic*] represents Canada in international relations, economic markets, global governance (which means financing/supporting corruption abroad, especially in third-world countries) and international security!

Individual contribution: \$317.30  
Percentage of total tax bill: 5.27%  
Total spending: \$13.9 billion (not counting an additional \$6 billion for CIDA, International Cooperation Minister Bev Oda's expenses and other related costs).

Canada pledged another \$227 million in development aid to Afghanistan over four years (2014-2017) on 8 July 2012 (\$16 billion international package), in addition to the \$300 million that it agreed to donate during 2011-2014. Rideau Institute president Steven Staples: The money will be siphoned off by the Afghan military or “disappear altogether” through graft “then squandered into secret bank accounts held by the Karzai government members.” Afghanistan has received nearly \$60 billion in civilian handouts since 2002.

Conservative MP Chris Alexander (parliamentary secretary for national defence) said Canada would keep a close eye on how the money is spent (wink-wink): "That needs to be done, because the flows are substantial and we know there have been shortcomings, not necessarily relating to Canadian spending, but certainly relating to some of the assistance." Wasn't our intrepid International Cooperation Minister Bev Oda sent to Kandahar by Prime Minister Stephen Harper on 22 April 2008 where she emphatically declared having “absolutely no concerns” about corruption in Afghanistan (or acronym of VICE used by U.S. government officials: vertically integrated criminal enterprise)?<sup>1</sup>

### **National Defence:**

Individual contribution: \$450.52  
Percentage of total tax bill: 7.49%  
Total spending: \$19.7 billion

### **Crown corporations:**

Various national services/companies including Canada Post, Via Rail, the Bank of Canada, Royal Canadian Mint, Atomic Energy of Canada, federal museums and a host of other federally funded agencies.

Individual contribution: \$502.38  
Percentage of total tax bill: 8.36%  
Total spending: \$94.68 billion

### **Public debt charges:**

Who has to pay the interest when governments run deficits and can't service their debt obligations? Answer: We do!

Individual contribution: \$615.35  
Percentage of total tax bill: 10.23%  
Total spending: \$27.0 billion

### **Health and social transfers:**

Individual contribution: \$942.84  
Percentage of total tax bill: 15.67%  
Total spending: \$41.29 billion

## **Human Resources and Skills Development Canada:**

Offers economic services to help Canadians buy homes, find work, get skills training and move into retirement. The agency provides funding for the Canada Mortgage & Housing Corp., Guaranteed Income Supplement, Spousal Allowance and Old Age Security.

Individual contribution: \$1,069.97  
Percentage of total tax bill: 17.78%  
Total government spending: \$46.9 billion

## **The rest of our tax bill:**

The CBC receives \$25.97, Status of Women 72 cents, Canada Space Agency \$7.85, Supreme Court 66 cents, Parliament \$9.75, RCMP \$75.47 and employment insurance snatches a hefty \$491.89.

## **Entitlement:**

Refusing to stay at the swanky five-star Grange St. Paul's hotel in London (England) where a three-day GAVI conference was being held, International Cooperation Minister Bev Oda rebooked at the posh Savoy for more than double the cost (\$665 a night): "The minister preferred not to stay at the Grange St. Paul's upon our arrival there and we had to pay" for a night at the hotel she rejected, costing an additional \$287 (note on an expense sheet obtained under the Access to Information Act).

This corrupt 'prima donna' only partially reimbursed taxpayers eight hours after The Canadian Press story broke on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 (three days after those expenses incurred in June 2011 were questioned)!<sup>2</sup>

Oda also billed \$2,850 for a luxury car/driver rental which would not have been necessary had she stayed at the original hotel where the conference was taking place.

Conservative House leader Peter Van Loan indicated two days later on April 25<sup>th</sup> during question period that no further payments would be made by Oda: "The minister has repaid the inappropriate costs. I think that is what the public would expect, that is what the opposition would expect, and I do not think she would be asked to repay costs that were appropriate."

Oda's office released a statement the following day on April 26<sup>th</sup> indicating that she had repaid the car service expense which "should not have been charged to taxpayers" (no dollar figure was provided).<sup>3</sup>

Although she did eventually reimburse \$4,025.26, it was her infamous \$16.00 glass of orange juice that resonated most in the minds of jaded Canadians. Bev Oda resigned from Cabinet and as a Member of Parliament effective July 31<sup>st</sup> 2012.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation determined that she would be eligible for an annual pension of \$52,183 (indexed to inflation, or \$701,464 by the time she is 80 years old):

“By our calculations, that should buy about 43,841 glasses of orange juice.”<sup>4</sup>



Pascal Élie, Montreal Gazette, 04-27-2012

THE HARPER COLLIDER FINALLY ISOLATES THE BEV PARTICLE



Pascal Élie, Montreal Gazette, 07-05-2012



Serge Chapleau, La Presse (Montréal), 07-05-2012

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<sup>1</sup> Eric Talmadge, The Associated Press; Steven Chase, The Globe and Mail; CBC News; Steve Rennie and Natalie Stechyson, The Canadian Press/Postmedia News, 07-08-2012; CBC News, 04-22-2008; Dexter Filkins, author (The Forever War) and journalist (The New York Times/The New Yorker).

<sup>2</sup> Jennifer Ditchburn, The Canadian Press; CBC News; The Globe and Mail; La Presse, 04-23-2012.

<sup>3</sup> CBC News, The Globe and Mail, 04-26-2012.

<sup>4</sup> Meagan Fitzpatrick, Kady O'Malley, CBC News, 07-03-2012.