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## **Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**

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# **Rebate Misses Most Canadians**

**(This Press Release submitted to Brad for distribution by:  
James Rajotte, MP Senior Critic, Industry  
John Duncan, MP Senior Critic, Natural Resources  
Werner Schmidt, MP Vice-Chair Industry Committee)**

OTTAWA -Conservative MPs James Rajotte, John Duncan, and Werner Schmidt strongly criticized the federal government for not providing relief to all Canadians regarding fuel prices and increases in home heating costs.

"The government's proposed plan has weaknesses," said Rajotte. "The plan will aid less than 10% of Canadians, no assistance is given to farmers, and gasoline prices are not even acknowledged in the package. Clearly, the government's plan is not addressing the needs of the majority of Canadians."

Moreover, the government's ability to assist seniors with the cost of home heating is being called into question. The current plan is to extend the rebate to seniors whom receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). However, Liberal Senators' research indicates that as many as 135,000 seniors who were eligible for the GIS in 2002 did not receive it.

"The ability of the government to appropriately distribute a rebate to such narrow groups gives huge opportunities for mismanagement," said Duncan. "It brings back memories of pre-2000 election Liberal program which was strongly criticized by the Auditor-General for doling out \$1.5 billion dollars in home heating rebates when only \$350 million was delivered to Canadians in genuine need."

In reality, price increases, demand growth, and supply concerns are exasperated by a lack of government policies. While the Liberals have been in government for more than twelve years, they have yet to provide a comprehensive Canadian energy framework.

"Instead of implementing a clear direction or energy framework the government is taking an ad hoc approach to these issues, to the detriment of tax payers, consumers and industries," said Schmidt.

The Conservative Party will continue to stand up for the interests of all Canadians, as they face increased costs due to higher heating bills and gasoline prices, by fighting for lower taxes and a comprehensive long-term energy framework.

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