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Pensioner braces to cut back to prepare for the HST arrival

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Posted By

Posted 2 days ago

Is Ontario's harmonized sales tax (HST) a positive or a negative move?

Next July, the federal goods and services tax (GST) and provincial sales tax (PST) will be harmonized to 13% tax on many things we purchase.

Even federal Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff admitted he would not repeal the tax if his party defeats Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Tories. Ignatieff even knows that it will turn voters against him for backing it.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, when asked to explain the new HST, replied: "I don't know much about it, maybe the finance minister can help."

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, MPPs were slamming the lid of their tables vigorously protesting the HST. If they can't see a real benefit in harmonizing the GST/PST, how can the government expect Ontarians to understand and accepting the new taxation without protest?

Ontario Revenue Minister John Wilkinson should publish a very logical, detailed explanation on why he is going to implement the comprehensive tax package, and how it will strengthen the Ontario economy, to make every Ontarian understand, like he does and believes, that this HST is a very positive move and not a tax grab, which is what most Ontarians believe right now.

At this point most Ontarians believe that harmonizing the sales tax will be negative for retailers, all service providers, for low-wage earners, especially for the unemployed, and pensioners.

As a pensioner, I am really upset. A simple calculation tells me that the basic costs of my yearly living expenses will increase to equal a one-month pension cheque, like receiving my pension cheque for 11 month only. It tells me to cut back!

Our government knows that the small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of our economy and a major source of jobs across the country. But the new HST will raise the price of a slew of goods, contracts and services with a 13% charge on everything we will purchase. In our present economical situation, it will result in reduced business transactions, more layoffs and part-time work will increase.

A poll by Nanos Research found that two-third of Ontarians have already expressed a negative view of the 13 per cent tax. Petitions have been signed online at

www.unfairtaxgrab.com.

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Thousands of letters have been sent to the premier's web-site at www.premier.gov.ca/feedback/default.asp.

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