



C-Suite Survey - Executive Summary

December 11, 2015 – This 41st edition of the C-Suite Quarterly survey is conducted on behalf of KPMG; published and broadcast by the *Globe and Mail's Report on Business* and *BNN*. Interviews were conducted by telephone with 15 C-Suite executives from ROB1000 companies between November 16th and December 10th, 2015.

- ❑ Most of the C-Suite sees the election of a Liberal government as a negative development for business in Canada – though few have strongly negative views.
 - 48% said the new government is a somewhat negative development; 11% said it was a very negative development for Canadian business.
- ❑ The C-Suite is especially concerned about negative tax implications – top of mind is the impact on taxation, in all facets: the C-Suite wants to see tax levels remain unchanged, including allowances for TFSA's as well as the top personal tax bracket.
- ❑ Concern around taxes may be driven partly by anxiety over government spending.
- ❑ The C-Suite is split on whether or not the government's stimulus plan is a good thing:
 - 50% support and 49% opposed the \$10 billion deficits the government planned to run over three years to help fund new infrastructure.
- ❑ The C-Suite believes improved relations with US and trade should be top priorities.
 - 74% said facilitating trade across the Canada-US border should be a high priority for the new government; 69% said trade with Asia should be a high priority; 58% want to see improving relations with the US made a high priority.
 - The C-Suite is mostly supportive of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) - 78% said they support Canada ratifying the agreement – 12% oppose the deal.
- ❑ Additionally, 60% said the government should ensure, as a top priority, an accelerated process to review and potentially approve new pipeline construction.
- ❑ A centrepiece of the government's agenda – middle class tax cuts – was rated a lower priority.
- ❑ Many are concerned about ending Canada's combat role against ISIS in Iraq/Syria: most 60% said this should not be part of the new government's agenda.

Climate Change

- ❑ Most said they expected that establishing climate change regulations should be among the priorities the new federal government addresses, though only 28% said it should be a high priority.
- ❑ Looking ahead to the Paris climate change talks, the vast majority believe it's time to end uncertainty for business
 - ❑ 89% agreed Canada should be a part of any global agreement on GHG reductions if it includes the world's major economic powers.
 - ❑ 71% agreed Canada's Liberal government should move ahead with a final framework of regulations on climate change and emissions because uncertainty is bad for business
 - ❑ 61% agreed Canada should not be party to any agreement that does not include the United States

More detailed information and data pertaining to additional questions including a presentation of this quarter's findings are available in PowerPoint from Gandalfgroup.ca.