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CIPH Communicates Concerns of EI Premiums to Finance Minister James Flaherty

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating has recently sent a letter to Minister Flaherty supporting the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's concern that the Federal government is considering permitting the maximum allowable increase to Employment Insurance (EI) premiums - 15 cents/\$100 for employees and 21 cents/\$100 for employers - to come into effect in January 2011 after a two year freeze.

The Institute has gone on record stating that such an increase would have significant negative implications for the 250 corporate members of the Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating.

"Higher taxes, whether imposed directly or in the form of payroll taxes, make business less competitive and kill jobs. As they recover from the recession and face global competition that grows more fierce each day, Canada's businesses need to see the costs imposed by government decrease, not increase," states CIPH Chairman Russ Morgan (IPEX Inc.)

Given the fragility of the recovery, particularly the American economy, which is so important to our own economic health, this would be a very poor time to increase the EI payroll tax to the maximum extent possible. The Institute supports simple reforms to EI that would ease the burden on employers and make it a more effective insurance program for Canadians who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

The Institute urges the government to take a more measured approach to balancing the EI account that reflects our current economic realities and employers efforts to deal with them.

CIPH members are also encouraged to communicate similar concerns to their MP. A listing can be found at: <http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainMPsCompleteList.aspx?>

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today's competitive environment. More than 250 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 700 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. Total industry sales exceed \$5 billion annually.



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