

LIBERAL LEADER



CHEF LIBÉRAL

February 13, 2012

Ms. Blaze Canadian
1867 Maple Way
Maple Sandbox, Canada
MPL SBX

Dear Ms. Canadian:

I would like to thank you for your letter of January 25, 2012, and for sharing your concerns regarding United States Foreign Tax Compliance Act and how this is affecting Canadians.

Liberals believe that the Government of Canada should stand up for honest hard working people who have been caught up by overly complex American tax rules. They are not tax cheats and it is past time for Stephen Harper to stand up for them.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird should be asking the United States for amnesty against penalties as the IRS's Foreign Bank Account Reporting requirements were not adequately communicated to dual-citizens living in Canada. In addition, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty should work to amend the Canada-US Tax Treaty so that the IRS does not tax savings vehicles such as RRSPs and RESPs, and instead recognize them as the tax deferred savings vehicles that they are.

We are also highly concerned that new regulations in the United States will soon force Canadian banks to share personal banking information with the IRS. This raises clear privacy concerns that must be addressed before these regulations take effect in two years time. We hope that the Harper Government will act to address these concerns instead of caving into American pressure as has been their past practice.

We have raised this issue in Question Period and will continue to press the Conservative government to do the right thing for Canadians

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Rae".

The Honourable Bob Rae, P.C., O.C., M.P.

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