



The Bean Counters' Quarterly

Steve Kirkham C.A. Professional Corporation

March 2014

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Greetings!

Welcome to the March 2014 issue of The BeanCounters' Quarterly!

There are mixed feelings about wishing you a Happy Spring...most of us are looking forward to spring and spring-like weather after a long, cold winter, but since we're swamped with Tax Season here at the firm there's a sense of wishing it would wait until we're ready to enjoy it!

In this issue you'll read about Canada's 2014 Federal Budget, the anticipated economic recovery after a harsh winter, and a summary of a new book called Leaders Eat Last.

You'll also read about the services of our client The Computer Edge and find out what Linda's answer is to our Dialogue question, as well as see what the team is up to.

We are on **Facebook!** You can Like us at: [Facebook](#)

We wish you a safe and happy holiday and a very prosperous new year!

Best regards,

Steve Kirkham

The Dialogue Department!



The idea is to open the lines of communication on a topic or question that may be light and breezy or deep and serious, in an otherwise busy and hurried world. We'll start on our end by telling you about our thoughts on a particular topic or question, and then we'll wait to hear back from you - just hit the link "Here's What I Have to Say" and send us a quick reply.

Here's our question/topic for this issue:

"This has been a very long winter, what keeps you going and what do you look forward to?"

Our reply for this quarter is from **LINDA HARRIS**: "*Enjoying glorious winter days with family!*" (*check out Linda's photo on the Fun Page*)

Here's What I Have To Say - (send reply to) steve@kirkhamca.ca

Canada's 2014 Federal Budget

Canada

2014 Federal Budget

The Government is on track to return to balanced budgets in 2015, with new measures that will create jobs and opportunities in an uncertain global economy.

The Government is on track to balance the budget while keeping taxes low and protecting the programs and services Canadians count on.

With no new taxes on Canadian families or businesses, Economic Action Plan 2014 projects that the deficit will decline to \$2.9 billion in 2014-15, after taking into account a \$3 billion annual adjustment for risk. A surplus of \$6.4 billion is expected in 2015-16, again after taking into account a \$3 billion annual adjustment for risk.

Since the inception of Canada's Economic Action Plan in 2009, Canada has achieved the best job creation record and one of the best economic performances in the Group of Seven (G-7) over the recovery.

Economic Action Plan 2014 builds on this record of achievement with positive measures to grow the economy and help create jobs.

Supporting Jobs and Growth: * Launching the Canada Job Grant and an enhanced Job Matching Service to help connect Canadians with available jobs.

* Introducing a new Canada Apprentice Loan to help registered apprentices in Red Seal trades with the cost of training.

* Investing to reform the on-reserve education system, in partnership with First Nations, through the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act.

* Investing in programs to help older workers and persons with disabilities access the labour market.

- * Creating thousands of new paid internships for young Canadians entering the job market.
- * Making a major investment of \$500 million in automotive sector support, investments in Canada's forestry and mining sectors, and much more.
- * Providing \$1.5 billion over the next decade for the Canada First Research Excellence Fund for post-secondary research.

[Federal Budget 2014](#)

Canada's Economy Expected to Recover from Harsh Winter



Canadian economy expected to rebound after harsh winter disrupted output, sales and hiring

Canadians could soon be warming up to an improving economy - and we'll have our southern neighbours to thank for turning up the heat.

Both Canada and the United States are coming out of severe winter storms that disrupted output, sales and hiring.

The weather factor already accounted for weaker growth in both countries at the end of 2013, and the harsh climate likely limited activity in the first months of this year, as well, before the impact began to recede.

Economists are already seeing that pattern emerging.

In Canada, we'll get the January reading of the economy Monday, March 31, 2014 followed on Friday with March employment numbers. "I believe the dominant theme for these two big economic reports will be a rebound from tough weather conditions - even though they cover completely different month," said Douglas Porter, chief economist at BMO Capital Markets. Please Read More:

[Financial Post - Harsh Winter](#)

Spotlight On Business



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR BUSINESS:

The Computer Edge is a small owner-managed computer retail and service shop. **Ken Devreese** has owned and run the business for over 16 years and provides excellent, personal care to all that come through the door. Our firm has used him for hardware purchases and maintenance as well as VOIP and online backup. Ken provides

a very hands-on relationship that is becoming very difficult to find in today's world of the big box stores (and his prices are very competitive).

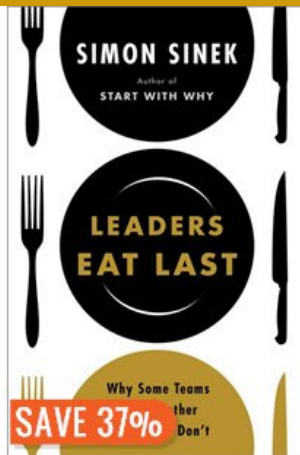
We highly recommend Ken for any and all of your computing needs.

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Want to promote your business through our newsletter? Just send us a short bio along with logo/artwork and we'll put you in a future edition.

[The Computer Edge](#)

Recommended Reading:



Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Other's Don't by Simon Sinek

Why do only a few people get to say "I love my job"? It seems unfair that finding fulfillment at work is like winning a lottery; that only a few lucky ones get to feel valued by their organizations, to feel like they belong.

Imagine a world where almost everyone wakes up inspired to go to work, feels trusted and valued during the day, then returns home feeling fulfilled.

This is not a crazy, idealized notion. Today, in many successful organizations, great leaders are creating environments in which people naturally work together to do remarkable things.

In his travels around the world since the publication of his bestseller *Start with Why*, Simon Sinek noticed that some teams were able to trust each other so deeply that they would literally put their lives on the line for each other. Other teams, no matter what incentives were offered, were doomed to infighting, fragmentation and failure. Why?

The answer became clear during a conversation with a Marine Corps general.

Officers eat last," he said.

Sinek watched as the most junior Marines ate first while the most senior Marines took their place at the back of the line. What's symbolic in the chow hall is deadly serious on

the battlefield: great leaders sacrifice their own comfort even their own survival for the good of those in their care.

This principle has been true since the earliest tribes of hunters and gatherers. It's not a management theory; it's biology. Our brains and bodies evolved to help us find food, shelter, mates and especially safety. We've always lived in a dangerous world, facing predators and enemies at every turn. We thrived only when we felt safe among our group.

Our biology hasn't changed in fifty thousand years, but our environment certainly has. Today's workplaces tend to be full of cynicism, paranoia and self-interest. But the best organizations foster trust and cooperation because their leaders build what Sinek calls a Circle of Safety that separates the security inside the team from the challenges outside.

The Circle of Safety leads to stable, adaptive, confident teams, where everyone feels they belong and all energies are devoted to facing the common enemy and seizing big opportunities.

As he did in *Start with Why*, Sinek illustrates his ideas with fascinating true stories from a wide range of examples, from the military to manufacturing, from government to investment banking.

The biology is clear: when it matters most, leaders who are willing to eat last are rewarded with deeply loyal colleagues who will stop at nothing to advance their leader's vision and their organization's interests. It's amazing how well it works.

[Chapters/Indigo - Leaders Eat Last](#)



Stuff To Know About Our Team

-Sherry has had a great year so far. She and her husband went to the Mayan Riviera in February to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary! They were so happy to get away from the cold winter. It made the trip all the more enjoyable. She is also training for a half marathon walk that is happening May 11th. It's the KW Walking Classic in Waterloo for Mental Health. She's training with girls from her "Tread Powerfully" group. She says it's been a hard winter to train but they are all very determined to do it!

-Andre says the last three months have been the busiest for him. His wife has been very busy at work helping her firm to open more business locations, so the kids have had to become more independent, in order for them to manage. However, they are still in many activities. His daughter's curling team placed third and his son's team won gold. Then they were both on the same team and came in first place!

-Linda says there is nothing new to report, just plugging away at life.

-Steve says that the last three months have been a bit of blur, but being asked to recap for this newsletter allows him to take a minute to think about what he did actually do and realize even more that the time is a precious commodity to be used to its fullest. Steve started the New Year off in Yellowknife at one of his client's remote sites. Stepping off the plane and having to walk 30 seconds to the terminal in a brisk -42C temp was "fun", but ended up being the beginning of a long, cold winter. Back home, Steve and Gavin went to the boat show, still "just looking" at their dream wakeboard boats. A couple of midweek breaks up to Collingwood with Justin and Gavin to tackle the hills was a break, although quite cold. And a trip to Parry Sound where they had to actually "carve" steps in the snow on the cottage roof to get up to clear the chimney was a fun one-nighter for Steve and Gavin. From there, they went to Huntsville where Erin is spending her winter co-op term working at Dorset Environmental Centre while staying at the Waterloo Summit Centre in Huntsville. She is really enjoying her time spent at the Centre cataloging and identifying several different species that were accumulated over the summer months by other students. Sherry got a trip south (the only lucky one in the family) to Mexico with some friends for 10 days in February. Steve is now hunkered down until the end of April at the office but is looking forward to some nice sunny (and warm) days in May to get back outdoors.

Quick Links...

- [The Bean Counters' Quarterly Home Website](#)
- [Canada Revenue Agency - for Business](#)
- [More About Steve Kirkham C.A. and Our Team](#)
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