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Nota di contenuto	Evolving budgetary policies and experiments: 1980 to 2009-2010 / Bruce Doern -- How Ottawa assesses department/agency performance: Treasury Board's management accountability framework / Evert Lindquist -- Design challenges for the strategic state: bricolage and sabotage / Ruth Hubbard and Gilles Paquet -- Evaluating the rationale of the new Federal Lobbying Act: making lobbying transparent or regulating the industry? / Robert Shepherd -- Could the senate be right? Should CIDA be abolished? / Chris Brown and Edward T. Jackson -- Federal gas tax transfers: politics and perverse policy / Robert Hilton and Christopher Stoney -- How Ottawa spends and how Canadians save: "asset-based" approaches in uncertain times / Jennifer Robson, Richard Shillington, and Peter Nares -- Communication by stealth: the new common sense in government communication / Kristen Kozolanka -- Framing the Harper government: "gender-neutral" electoral appeals while being gender-negative in caucus / Melissa Haussman and L. Pauline Rankin -- Where is VIA going? A case study of managing a commercial crown corporation / Malcolm G. Bird.

This is the thirtieth volume in the series How Ottawa Spends. It is arguable that never in these years have Canadians faced such serious economic upheaval and political dysfunction as the current climate. The dramatic and seemingly sudden changes in the economy occurred simultaneously with a political drama - one that was largely disassociated from the real and pressing economic challenge. Early Harper budgets delivered lower taxes for all Canadians partly through highly targeted but politically noticeable small tax breaks on textbooks for students, tools for apprentices in skilled trades, and public transit costs. The needs of the beleaguered average Canadian and the "swing voter in the swing constituencies" of an already strategized "next" election were a key part of Conservative agenda-setting. In the 2007 budget alone there were twenty-nine separate tax reductions and federal spending was projected to increase by \$10 billion, including a 5.7 percent increase in program spending. A small surplus of \$3.3 billion was planned, almost all of which would go to debt reduction. As Harper savoured his 14 October 2008 re-election with a strengthened minority government, although without his desired majority, he and his minister of Finance already knew that his surpluses were likely gone in the face of the crashing financial sector and a looming recession. Future deficits were firmly back on the agenda. Contributors include Malcolm G. Bird (Carleton University), Chris Brown (Carleton University), G. Bruce Doern (Carleton University and University of Exeter), Melissa Haussman (Carleton University), Robert Hilton (Carleton University), Ruth Hubbard (University of Ottawa), Edward T. Jackson (Carleton University), Kirsten Kozolanka (Carleton University), Evert Lindquist (University of Victoria), Allan M. Maslove (Carleton University), Peter Nares (Social and Enterprise Development Innovations), Gilles Paquet (University of Ottawa), L. Pauline Rankin (Carleton University), Jennifer Robson (Carleton University), Robert P. Shepherd (Carleton University), Richard Shillington (Informetrica Limited), and Chris Stoney (Carleton University).
