House of Commons
Chambre des communes
Canada

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

(•) **an organization** **Organization name:** Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium

or

( ) **an individual** **Name:** _____

Topic: Infrastructure

*Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Establish a College/Institute Equipment and Building Renewal Fund to ensure instructional equipment remains current and relevant to meet the demands of the workplace and that facilities remain current.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$1 billion or more

1 year

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Reallocation.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

• Students will be trained in facilities and on equipment that is up-to-date and reflective of the technology and processes that they are likely to meet in the workplace.
• Businesses/employers will hire graduates that are well versed in working with the latest technology and processes. This will be more efficient for the businesses in terms of the productivity of new hires, and also has the potential benefit of students introducing new technology/processes to the businesses that are hiring them.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

• The cost of college programs is covered by a combination of student tuition and core government support. Tuition for these programs covers only a fraction of the cost. Colleges struggle to afford to run these programs and to keep them relevant and current.
• In Atlantic Canada, pressure is mounting on Colleges to supply the training needed for new and emerging careers associated with numerous regional large scale projects. Infrastructure funding would assist.
• College and institute enrolment is strong, however many institutions are at near capacity with waitlists for high demand programs.

Topic: Infrastructure

Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Increase funding for the Tri-Council College and Community Innovation Program (CCI) to:
• Support additional college-based Technology Access Centres (TACs);
• Expand eligibility of the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards Program to college diploma programs and not just college degree programs.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$10 million-$99.9 million

1 year

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Reallocation

• Each additional TAC is an investment of approximately $350,000
• Each additional intern position is approximately $4,500

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

• Industry, in particular small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), benefit from access to TACs and to interns.
• Students benefit from interaction with industry and hands on experience, making them more prepared for the workforce.
• Colleges benefit from increased research activity and from closer ties with industry.
• The economy benefits because of the knowledge transfer; the innovation that takes place; and the efficiencies and new opportunities created.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

• In the 2013 eligibility for the NSERC Student Research Awards was expanded to students in College Bachelor programs. The majority of college students are in diploma programs. Expansion of the criteria to include diploma programs would provide more opportunity to both students and businesses.
• With skills shortages jeopardizing economic growth, one of the solutions is to assist businesses to be more productive and innovative. The services offered through TACs and the student intern programs assist businesses to become more productive and innovative.

Topic: Education and skills training

Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Address the skills gap by ensuring Canadians have ready access to the skills training required for today's jobs. The federal government can help address this by:
• Coordinating an effort to improve inter-jurisdictional mobility of apprentices;
• Providing incentives for completion of apprenticeship
• Increasing access to post secondary education for vulnerable Canadians including aboriginals; at-risk Youth; persons with disabilities; and the under and unemployed.
• Supporting the integration of immigrants.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

unknown

1 year

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

• Business will have access to the skilled workers they require.
• The Canadian economy benefits from improved business opportunities and improved employment.

In 2013, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce identified skills shortages as a top barrier to competitiveness. A highly skilled workforce that engages the talents of every Canadian is the sole path to sustainable economic growth for Canada.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

• In its Major Project Inventory 2013 report, the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council identified over $115 Billion of major projects planned for Atlantic Canada. These projects include the Muskrat Fall Hydro-electric facility and transmission network in Newfoundland and Labrador; Mining operations and off-shore petroleum projects in Newfoundland and Labrador; the Irving Shipyard combat vessel contract; and the recently announced eastern Canada pipeline project. The ability to source skilled labour is critical to the success of these projects and to the economic opportunities they provide.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided