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:** Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists

or

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

Topic: Retirement, pensions and seniors

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

Canada provides $250,000 annually to implement a pan-Canadian communications strategy emanating from CAOT's "Blueprint for Injury Prevention in Older Adults" (www.olderdriversafety.ca) funded by PHAC, to raise awareness about: driver refresher programs; disseminate tools, programs; undertake driver assessments; develop driver retirement plans; provide information on transportation and community mobility options; enable transition to post-driving cessation; train health care professionals; provide supports for 3.4M drivers aged over 65 who are involved in more than 12% of 125,000 collisions/ye

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

Immediately

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.

NO COSTS. It is recommended that a stream of funding ($250,000) under Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's (HRSDC's) New Horizons For Seniors Funding Program be allocated to raising awareness about available resources for older drivers and their families across Canada, so that older drivers can be socially and economically active, be engaged in their communities, and continue to make a contribution. An annual investment of $250,000 will yield a return of $10 to $99M annually in addition to the physical and mental well-being as well as the quality of life of older adults in Canada.

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

Research indicates that 40% of people who have taken advantage of resources such as the driver refresher programs saw marked improvements in their driving performance. The strategy when implemented and executed in collaboration with provincial governments and non-governmental organizations, would directly benefit the current complement of 3.4M drivers aged 65 and over (and their families) in all the provinces and territories across Canada. It would improve the general well-being of older adults who often view their ability to drive as a measure of independence.

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 Canadian population in general would benefit as the strategy aims to:
• Prevent injuries, enhance the safety, security and mobility of older drivers and for all road users;
• Reduce the social and health impacts and economic costs associated with older drivers for the benefit of all Canadians;
• Improve the quality of life of older drivers

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

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

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.

Please select from the drop down menu

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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.

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

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

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Please select from the drop down menu

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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.

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