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:** The Canadian Climate Forum

or

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

Topic: Rural, remote and urban communities

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

Recommendation: Bolster funding for research on extreme weather events.

Flooding from violent storms in Alberta and Toronto in 2013 'blindsided' communities, showing the urgent need for better forecasts. As weather patterns change and extreme events recur more frequently, improved information is needed for towns and cities to anticipate and adapt to severe conditions more effectively. This will reduce economic and societal disruption - and the huge costs of cleanup; and provide returns for technology development, job creation, urban policy, public security. health and commercial activity.

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.

Support should come from a redirection of some of the funds saved by the government's withdrawal from certain federally-supported programs and agencies. This saving includes $5M per year from the former National Round Table on Environment and Economy, $2 million from the Environmental Lakes Area, some of the total $14 billion reportedly saved by Canada's withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol, as well as some savings from staff cuts at federal science-based departments and agencies.

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

Implementation will directly benefit cities, towns and small communities across Canada. Improved prediction of extreme events, forward-looking policies and adaptive action will reduce human suffering, work disruptions and cleanup costs - which can be substantial. Early estimates of damages to Alberta homes, businesses, vehicles and other private property as a result of the June 2013 floods, are $3-$5 billion. The cleanup from Toronto's July 2013 floods is expected to exceed $800 million. Many costs are uninsured and currently fall on federal and provincial shoulders.

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.

Extreme weather events affect almost every aspect of the local, regional - and often national economy, and are becoming more frequent. Greater investment of effort, resources and committed leadership will improve understanding of changes in weather patterns and the impact of severe events on people and businesses. This will stimulate training of the skilled workforce so essential to our innovative economy; development of marketable technologies and adaptive tools; and permit improved building regulations, more robust municipal infrastructure; and enhanced emergency management.

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

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.

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

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