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:** City of London

or

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

Topic: Infrastructure

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

The federal government should invest in stimulus related infrastructure to assist communities affected by the recession to boost their economies. Budget 2013 commitments are welcome but special attention needs to be paid to areas such as London that are in still in recovery. The City is seeking federal partnership to develop "shovel ready lands" to attract new businesses to region. The City is seeking a $40 million investment to be matched by the City and the province. Funding would be used to extend key infrastructure to valuable employment lands along the 401/402 corridor.

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

5 or more years

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.

Special project funding for this initiative could be earmarked for London through the Building Canada Fund or other strategic infrastructure programs.

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

Residents of London and surrounding region would benefit from this investment. The region is facing an unemployment rate of 9.2%, one of the highest in Canada. City estimates indicate that a $120 million partnership by the 3 orders of government could yield $1 billion in new economic activity in the region. The London Economic Development Corporation has indicated that the biggest barrier to attracting new investment is the lack of available serviced land along the 401/402 corridor. A $40 million federal investment will create jobs, enhance competitiveness and stimulate the economy.

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.

This investment is part of the City's broader Industrial Land Development Strategy. With these infrastructure investments it is anticipated that key clusters in London will be strengthened - agri-food, IT, energy, advanced manufacturing and others. Not only will jobs be directly created by new businesses but it is anticipated that programs and research with our key academic partners Fanshawe College and Western University will also see benefits.

Topic: Infrastructure

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

Develop a long-term intergovernmental partnership to deal with affordable and accessible housing. The federal government needs to commit to the reinvestment of the $1.7 billion in expiring operating agreements. It also needs to begin the work with FCM to implement "housing first 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.

$1 billion or more

5 or more years

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.

The federal government can commit to reinvest the $1.7 billion in annual federal funding for social housing operating agreements that are set to expire in the coming years. To develop a long-term intergovernmental strategy to address affordable housing all orders of government need to meet to discuss policies, programs and revenue streams.

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

All regions of Canada would benefit from a long-term intergovernmental partnership to address affordable and accessible housing. The Bank of Canada recently stated that an imbalance in the housing market is the number one domestic risk to the economy. More than 30% of Canadians live in rental housing, yet purpose-built rental housing accounts for only 10% of new construction over the past 15 years. Canada's most vulnerable, many living in social housing units with operating agreements set to expire, would benefit from a long-term strategy to address affordable housing.

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.

A secure housing market fosters economic growth and job creation. Each dollar spent on housing contributes to a $1.4 increase in GDP and an expenditure of $ 1 million generates roughly three full-time equivalent jobs and a further 10 indirect and ancillary jobs.
A housing market with flexible options - affordable home ownership and rental units - reduces reliance on emergency and social services when families and individuals run out of housing options.

Topic: Innovation and commercialization

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

The federal government should continue to fund and if possible enhance existing programs that support innovation and commercialization in emerging sectors. Preference for program dollars should be considered for regions that are facing tougher economic challenges and for projects that promote collaboration across institutions.

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

5 or more years

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.

The federal government should enhance program funding to FedDev as Southwestern Ontario is a region still struggling to overcome the recession. Increased FedDev funding could enhance programs such as: Applied Research & Commercialization Initiative; Investing in Business Innovation; Technology Development Program, Scientists & Engineers in Business and many others.

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

By supporting such initiatives in the region, the government would help address London's 9.2% unemployment rate. Centres like the Southern Ontario Water Consortium, Fraunhofer Project Centre for Composite Research at Western and the Institute for Chemicals and Fuels from Alternate Resources and others would be able to continue their valuable work, while others could be established. London's new Medical Innovation & Commercialization Network anticipates it could create 350 new jobs and stimulate the economy with long term revenue generation based on current hiring projections.

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.

Investing in research, innovation and commercialization can create high paying jobs in numerous sectors. Colleges and universities will benefit by attracting more students and talent and by the opportunity to provide students with practical experience. Canadians benefit through advances made in key research in medicine, alternative energy, water and wastewater and more. Canada's economy benefits from job creation, fostering leadership in key economic sectors and increased trade opportunities.

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

The City of London has been hit particularly hard during this economic downturn. The unemployment rate in London is currently 9.2% - one of the highest in Canada. This, in turn, has increased the number of those individuals and families relying on the social safety net, thereby placing a heavy burden on our already strained social services. The City of London is working with key partners to improve its local economy and trusts that the Government of Canada can continue to be a contributor to the region's future success.

The City of London is calling for all governments to make key infrastructure investments to attract new jobs; create the kinds of economic conditions that attract new businesses and jobs; provide social safety nets to support those most affected in this economic downturn; and work together to ensure that all governments have the resources they require to deliver the services people rely on. London is asking the federal government to build on its commitments with the city to restore prosperity to the city and region.

The City of London is also a long-standing member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and fully supports its pre-budget recommendations.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided