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:** Council of Canadian Academies

or

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

Topic: Federal budgets and the public service

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

The Government of Canada continue to receive evidence-based assessments, through the Council of Canadian Academies, in support of public policy development in Canada.

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.

This funding would be a renewal of the initial 10 year grant provided by the Government in 2005 for the Council to provide independent science advice on matters of national and public interest.

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

Council assessments are of benefit to various organizations and sectors across all regions of Canada. For example, reports have supported the B.C. Auditor General with their work on groundwater, the university sector has used Council reports on research integrity and women in university research, and provincial governments have benefited from the Council's work on water and agriculture. Upcoming reports on food security in the North will be of interest for Canada's northern populations and the Council's assessment on shale gas will be of value to both industry and environmental groups.

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 Council's evidence-based assessments provide the federal government with a critical tool for policy and decision making. The results of Council reports have led to decisions on such things as support for Arctic research, program support for groundwater mapping, a review of the federal approach to business innovation, and the establishment of the 2007 federal strategy for science and technology. It is ultimately up to the government to action the results of the Council's work, in-turn leading to greater prosperity for Canadians.

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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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.

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

Please select from the drop down menu

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.

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).

Science is at the centre of our lives in the twenty-first century and impacts all that we do. The Council of Canadian Academies are interpreters of science for Canadians - every day we work to gather and present the evidence on key issues of importance to the future of Canada. With each expert assessment conducted, we hope to contribute positively to policies that will better the health, wealth and prosperity of Canadians. As a neutral body whose interest lies solely is assessing evidence and providing expert insights, the Council has earned a reputation for being a trusted voice for science in the public interest.

The Council's primary client is the Government of Canada and over the past eight years the Council has received 29 questions for assessment. Reports have been completed on a wide range of topics, such as water and agriculture, nanotechnology and influenza transmission. By the conclusion of its funding agreement with the government (March 2015) the Council will have completed 36 in-depth, evidence based reports. Of particular interest is the portfolio of assessments that have been completed in the science and technology and business innovation space. These reports have tackled complicated issues and have brought forward clear evidence and insights on why Canada continues to be challenged by low business innovation, what the state of industrial research and development in Canada is, measuring innovation investments, and identifying emerging and existing areas of science and technology strength. The Council works with expert volunteers from across Canada and abroad to conduct its assessments. To date, the Council has worked with over 600 experts and leveraged more than $13 million in expert volunteer time. Council volunteers participate on blue ribbon panels and are highly accomplished, well respected individuals from academia, business, engineering and various policy fields. Effort is also placed on recruiting international panel members who can bring a global perspective to an issue. Often times helping place Council reports on the global stage and influencing policy debates internationally. Evidence-based reports completed by the Council's panels are made publicly available, in both official languages. Interest and demand for the Council's work has grown consistently and indicators suggest demand will continue to be strong moving forward. In order to meet current and future needs a decision regarding funding renewal is being sought from the 2014 federal budget process. A modest investment in the future of the Council ensures continued access to multidisciplinary panels who provide unbiased assessments to support policy and decision-makers as they consider future policy directions for Canada. A 2014 decision will also prevent a disruption in the Council's work, allowing the government to seamlessly and efficiently access the scientific evidence that underpins the critical domestic and international issues facing our nation.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided