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:** _____

**or**

◉ **an individual** **Name:** Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief and AFN NWT Regional Chief

**Topic:** Aboriginal peoples

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

Restore funding for community-based healing programs for survivors of residential schools and ensure continued funding for the 15 Healing Centres currently operating across 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.

Before expiry of its funding, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation had an annual budget of approximately $42M to support community-based healing programs. The 15 healing centres operation budget is $9.2M annually, which is set to expire on December 31, 2013. These full amounts need to be restored to ensure supports are provided directly in communities to ensure that the inter-generational impacts of residential schools are overcome.

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

80,000 former students and their inter-generational survivors who would be the direct beneficiaries as well as their communities (roughly 4% of Canada's population). As the Prime Minister said on June 11, 2008: "There is no place in Canada for the attitudes that inspired the Indian Residential Schools system to ever prevail again. You have been working on recovering from this experience for a long time and in a very real sense, we are now joining you on this journey."

**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.

Fully addressing the legacy and impacts of residential schools will lead to improved health, social and economic outcomes for First Nations communities, improved education rates for children and youth, as well as related and ongoing positive economic impacts for all of Canada.

**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

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.

**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).

Excerpts from the 2008 Residential School Apology:

The treatment of children in Indian Residential Schools is a sad chapter in our history.

For more than a century, Indian Residential Schools separated over 150,000 Aboriginal children from their families and communities. In the 1870's, the federal government, partly in order to meet its obligation to educate Aboriginal children, began to play a role in the development and administration of these schools. Two primary objectives of the Residential Schools system were to remove and isolate children from the influence of their homes, families, traditions and cultures, and to assimilate them into the dominant culture. These objectives were based on the assumption Aboriginal cultures and spiritual beliefs were inferior and unequal. Indeed, some sought, as it was infamously said, "to kill the Indian in the child". Today, we recognize that this policy of assimilation was wrong, has caused great harm, and has no place in our country.

...

The government now recognizes that the consequences of the Indian Residential Schools policy were profoundly negative and that this policy has had a lasting and damaging impact on Aboriginal culture, heritage and language. While some former students have spoken positively about their experiences at residential schools, these stories are far overshadowed by tragic accounts of the emotional, physical and sexual abuse and neglect of helpless children, and their separation from powerless families and communities.

The legacy of Indian Residential Schools has contributed to social problems that continue to exist in many communities today.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided