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:** John Hockley

Topic: Employment, labour markets and unions

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

Canada's economic recovery is stalling due to slowing business investment, high household debt, austerity and weak global growth. Corporate tax cuts didn't deliver the promised investments in new factories and training, and failed to boost the economy and create good jobs. Instead, corporations hoarded $ 600 billion of "dead money". Tax the "dead money" and put it to work in strategic and targeted major public investments to create good jobs, stimulate new private sector investment, and boost our productivity.

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

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.

The across-the-board corporate tax cuts have helped private, non-financial corporations in Canada to hoard $ 600 billion in cash reserves, money that is not at work creating more and better jobs in Canada. The up-front costs of many these new investments should be funded through returning the federal corporate income tax rate to its 2008 level of 19.5 per cent.

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

$1 billion spent in building public infrastructure, such as basic municipal infrastructure; mass transit and passenger rail; affordable housing; quality, affordable childcare; energy conservation through building retrofits; and renewable energy projects in cities and Aboriginal communities, creates thousands more jobs than across the board tax-cuts. And with today's low interest rate, we can do this at low cost to tax-payers, with high returns for all.

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.

Workers, families, communities, all levels of government benefit from better infrastructure, so do businesses because of improved productivity. An increase in investment in infrastructure will be more beneficial if it is attached to a local procurement policy, and used as a training opportunity for new labour market entrants, such as young workers, apprentices and recent immigrants.

Topic: Poor, poverty and income inequality

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

Most Canadians/provinces agree improving the CPP is the best way to ensure that seniors can live in dignity in retirement. Today most Canadians can't afford to save enough for their retirement. About 60% of workers have no workplace pension, while one-third of Canadians between the ages of 24 and 64 have no personal retirement savings. Expanding the CPP is the most efficient way to improve retirement security for all Canadians.

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.

other: please provide your estimated amount $1 billion or more in savings

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.

An expansion of CPP benefits is funded equally by employer and employee contributions, with no federal funding. Canadians needs to save more to build their retirement security with a low cost pension plan, and they need help. Canadian corporations can afford to help their employees build a decent pension. Tax-payers would save money from government transfers and programs by having fewer Canadians living without a decent retirement income.

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

Directly and indirectly, all Canadians would benefit from an expansion of the CPP. Older workers contributing at a higher rate will see an increase in benefits. Young workers contributing at a higher rate over their working careers will see the greatest increase. Local communities will benefit. It is good for Canada and helps create jobs in the future.

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 economic health and vitality of communities will benefit from higher incomes and consumption among seniors. The funded status of workplace pension plans, and therefore the funding risk facing plan sponsors, can be expected to improve alongside CPP expansion.

Topic: Employment, labour markets and unions

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

Improve Employment Insurance and scrap the recent changes!

Improve access to benefits by reducing the number of hours to qualify to 360 hours, calculate benefits based on best 12 weeks for everyone, eliminate the requirement for most EI recipients to accept lower wages after only six weeks of job search, and renew the Extended Employment Insurance Benefits Pilot Project, phasing regions out only when their unemployment rate falls below 8% for 12 consecutive months.

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.

other: please provide your estimated amount

EI is paid by Employers and

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.

Return the $ 50+ billion that was paid into the EI account by employers and employees. In the future, the EI Account should be managed at arm's length from the government, and the expected $2.8 billion surpluses in the 2014-2105 EI Fund should be used only to fund and improve the EI program with equal input from labour and business.

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

Improving access and scrapping the 2012 changes will benefit unemployed workers, cities and communities with unemployed workers, the Canadian labour market. The 2012 budget changes will work to lower wages and working conditions for all workers, by distorting the prevailing wages in the labour market. They will also require unemployed workers to take jobs below their skill level far too quickly, resulting in inefficient matches for both workers and employers.

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 role of Employment Insurance is to provide income security when workers lose their jobs through no fault of their own. Cuts over the past two decades have seriously weakened the macro-economic role of EI. Improving EI coverage and benefit levels would help families struggling to make ends meet, help businesses stay afloat and prevent further job losses, and help communities weather tough economic times. The additional EI coverage would allow for better labour market matches, improving productivity and well-being.

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

Youth unemployment, Seniors living in poverty are key issues that need to be addressed and my family is coping with.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided