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:** Chief Michael LeBourdais

Topic: Aboriginal peoples

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

We recommend that the Government create the option for interested First Nations to assume title to their own land and thereby enable the creation of private property rights on these lands. This should be developed in conjunction with land management laws and regulatory templates that can be assumed by First Nations that choose to exercise this option. The 2012 Budget included a mention that the federal government would explore this option for interested First Nations.

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.

This initiative should become self funding within 10 to 15 years if the sponsoring First Nations are allowed to implement a property transfer tax, as well as a series of registry fees similar to those used by provincial registries. However, in the short term, it should be funded, under existing funding frameworks. Over the long term this initiative should be accompanied by a substantial reduction in AANDC personnel assigned to lands and trusts.

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

The beneficiaries of this Act will be: (a) First Nations who want to own their own land; (b) pFirst Nations who want to attract more investment; (c) First Nations people who want to own their own homes on First Nation lands; (d) Band Members and First Nation governments who wish to use property as collateral; (e) bankers and real estate professions who would like a, familiar system of property rights, on First Nation lands; (f) investors who would like to pursue opportunities on First Nation lands; and, (g) any Canadian who wants an end to disparities and productivity improvements.

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.

Economic studies have projected over $1 billion in new investment over 10 years for the sponsoring First Nations. This will create $25 million in new annual revenues and 11,000 person years of new employment. This number will grow as other First Nations choose to participate. These opportunities and insights will redirect the energies of many First Nations people from protest and dependency to opportunity and help give them a real stake in the economic success of their regional economies.

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

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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.

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

Canada's First Nations have remained disadvantaged ever since the passage of the original Indian Act. For years, we have tinkered with different models for addressing the disadvantage. However, generally these models have assumed that the answer to disadvantage is government programs. Most Canadians have been frustrated by the seeming lack of result. It's time we recognized that the root problem is that under the Indian Act, the market cannot work on First Nation land like it does elsewhere in the country. The Indian Act created communally held land, governed from Ottawa. This made it enormously difficult to do business on these lands, expensive to govern these lands, and difficult to create family wealth. First Nations have tried to work around Indian Act limitations through leaseholds and the delegation of powers within the Indian Act. They have achieved some success. However, even when they are implemented, these models leave First Nations under a significant disadvantage when it comes to doing business. They are far too costly to implement. First Nations people still face the dilemma of not earning equity in their land. We need to recognize that we can have private property with significant self government powers, within the federation, on lands that are truly First Nations lands.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided