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:** ReStore (Habitat for Humanity Canada)

or

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

Topic: Energy and the environment

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

ReStore recommends a federal grant or contribution toward a Western Distribution Centre (WDC) to expand our procurement and distribution of donated and gently-used home improvement products in Western Canada.

ReStore is a social enterprise which diverts products from land fill by receiving them as gift-in-kind and selling them to the general public. Existing operations diverted 20,000 tonnes from land fill. A WDC will allow us to divert even more and use proceeds of ReStore sales to contribute to Habitat's mission to build safe, decent, affordable homes which are sold to low-income families.

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.

≤$499,999

1 year

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.

A new WDC would involve acquisition of warehouse space, as well as human resources for procuring and distributing product. The estimated start-up cost for the first year of operation is between $250,000 and $300,000.

The federal government could fund this recommendation by broadening eligibility of the EcoAction Community Funding criteria to include the amount of non-organics diverted from land fill.

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

The WDC will benefit Canadians living in Western Canada from thousands of tonnes of surplus and unwanted product from manufacturers and retailers ending up in land fill.

Low-income families benefit because proceeds from the sale of this unwanted product are used to build safe, decent homes they may purchase for payments they can afford.

Canadian taxpayers benefit from every Habitat home built from the proceeds of ReStores adds a new contributor of property taxes ($3,000 on average), and saves governments an average of $8,400 in rent and social subsidies.

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.

In addition to the environmental impact of diverting thousands of tonnes of quality material from land fill, the outcome of a WDC is the new homes for low-income families that it will help fund.

According to a CMHC study released in May 2013, families in Habitat homes saw their children continue their eduction (93%) and earn higher grades (62%). Parents went back to school (23%), move to better and higher-paying jobs (34%), and see wage increases of 8% annually.

As noted in Budget 2013, Habitat homes were used to provide 1,300 college and high school students with formal skills training.

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).

There is a large, untapped source of what manufacturers and retailers consider problem inventory, end-of-line, discontinued or rejected product that can be diverted from land fill if procured and sold to Canadians who want to purchase it. ReStore has a proven record of operating a 17,000 square foot facility in Brampton to receive and redistribute product to and from Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. Our model has proven to be extremely successful and continues to grow each year.

The next step in a growth plan is to scale up operations in Western Canada, where a WDC can serve western-based manufacturers, shippers, retailers and the Canadian public who live there. As a pan-Canadian social enterprise, with reach and impact in every province and territory, ReStore sees the federal government as the only partner with the same reach and impact. A successful partnership will enable ReStore to invest the proceeds from increased sales in homes Habitat for Humanity builds, not only in the province and community where the WDC is located, but across the country.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided