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:** The Sandbox Project

or

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

Topic: Children, youth and families

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

The Sandbox Project is recommending the government invest $2 million over two years for seed funding for a research-based think tank. This organization would be dedicated to driving change in the social and physical behaviour of Canada's youth to impact their health today, and Canada's economy tomorrow.

Research has shown that investment in children and youth is worth 3 to 18 times the investment later in life. Undertaking this funding today will prove invaluable towards future generations of 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.

$1 million-4.9 million

2 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.

Through this investment the government would leverage existing funding in children and youth charities given Sandbox's established role of bringing organizations together and building on the capacity of current programs. That said, it is recommended that Health Canada undertake a review of current funding envelopes that align with this proposal. This would support the government's own focus on ensuring Canada's youth are among the best, brightest and healthiest in the world. The Sandbox Project has already secured the support of several private sector donors to leverage government funding.

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

Beneficiaries of the work this organization would undertake are wide-ranging. Most importantly this would help children and youth today, but it would also assist future generations of workers and employers.

A more productive workforce is critical to Canada's future success. Productivity requires a healthy and active population. That is what this organization will accomplish: helping children to be healthier, so that they can live more active and productive lives. We want Canada's children and youth to be a source of global competitive advantage.

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 today's competitive global economy, we must invest in the health and wellness of our youngest citizens as we do in infrastructure or science and technology. They are our future and they are also fundamental to our nation's economic success. Canada needs a long-term view with respect to future labour market needs. By planning carefully and using evidence-based best practices to create strong foundations, we pave the way for our 'human' infrastructure to last longer, require fewer 'repair' costs, and be more productive thus paying out more financially compared to other government investments.

Topic: Children, youth and families

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

A portion of the proposed think tank outlined in Recommendation 1 could be isolated for a smaller investment and focus solely on safety for young workers.

The safety of young workers is an important component of ensuring a healthy workforce for Canada's economic future. Young workers are especially vulnerable to health and safety hazards as they enter the workforce. The adoption of healthy working practices by bringing together like-minded organizations will ensure that valuable resources a being properly invested.

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

2 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.

Through this investment the government would leverage existing funding in children and youth given Sandbox's established role of bringing organizations together and building on the capacity of current programs. It is recommended that Employment and Social Development Canada undertake a review of current funding envelopes that align with this proposal. This would support the government's own focus on ensuring Canada's youth are among the best, brightest and healthiest in the world. The Sandbox Project has already secured matching support of several several private sector donors.

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

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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.

Canada's young workers are our future. They are also one of the more vulnerable demographic groups in the workforce. Ensuring their safety and well-being is integral to ensuring the ongoing economic success of Canada's economy: an investment in the well-being of our young workers will give them the best opportunity to become long-term and productive employees in the future.

This investment would help decrease injuries on the job, promote job creation, increase workforce productivity and decrease unnecessary costs to our already burdened health care system.

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).

Sustained economic recovery and enhanced long-term economic growth require a healthy, active, and productive workforce.

Canada and our global economic competitors understand that one source of long-term and sustainable competitive advantage is healthy and active young people. Just like Canada, our competitors are investing in the health, education, and training of their children and youth. But for continued health and improved economic growth, we can and should do more.

Through evidence-based best practice methods, our recommendations would bring together important players in the field of child health to provide tangible and realistic results that would put Canada at the forefront of this important field. After the initial five years the organization would become self-sufficient and no longer require direct government support.

We need to change the paradigm of how we think about investing in the health Canada's youth - investments that will help promote a strong economic future for our country. Although we are all aware that it is good social policy to invest in the health and education of children—it must be recognized that it is also good economic policy.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided