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 Vancouver Board of Trade

or

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

Topic: Health

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

Changes should be make to the Canada Health Transfer funding formula so as to include demographic and population characteristics. In particular, the federal government should take into consideration the higher costs of providing health care to seniors when implementing changes to the funding formula.

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.

Federal funding in favour of certain provinces would be provided by adjusting the Canada Health Transfer to include demographics and population characteristics resulting in a reallocation between provinces.

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

British Columbia and its senior population would benefit. The 2011 census counted nearly 688,715 seniors living in BC. According to the census, the percentage of British Columbian's aged 65 and over was 15.7 per cent, compared with a national population of 14.8 per cent. The percentage of seniors in BC will reach 24.7 per cent by 2036. BC's Finance Minister estimates that recognizing the costs of providing health care to seniors could provide the Province with more than $100 million annually in additional health care funding.

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 currently proposed changes to the Canada Health Transfer funding formula will place BC at a serious disadvantage. BC has a rapidly growing senior population and the Province's fastest growing demographic group is aged 85 and older.

Including demographics in the new funding formula will contribute to ensuring that BC receives the funding necessary for the Province to continue providing seniors with access to high quality health services.

Topic: Small and medium-sized enterprises

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

The small business income tax threshold ("SBITT") has increased over the years, which has been of significant benefit to the growth of small businesses. However, the small business tax limit is reduced when taxable capital exceeds $10,000,000 and is completely eliminated when taxable capital exceeds $15,000,000. The taxable capital threshold has not been increased since its inception in 1994. We believe the taxable capital threshold should increase similar to the SBITT to reflect the growth of the economy and increased cost of capital since 1994.

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.

No federal funding would be necessary for this recommendation. We are not able to estimate the cost or savings of this recommendation. However, similar to the incentive to reduce corporate taxes to stimulate economic growth, we believe the increase of the taxable capital limits would be an incentive for small businesses to reinvest capital rather than take funds out of their business to avoid paying tax at the higher general tax rate.

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

Small and medium size businesses in all sectors and regions of the country would be the direct benefactors of this change.

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.

As mentioned above, we believe the recommendation would encourage small and medium sized businesses to further reinvest in their businesses which in turn would create more jobs and foster growth of not only their business but the Canadian economy as a whole.

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).

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided