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:** YMCA Canada

or

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

Topic: Infrastructure

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

Earmark investment in the new Building Canada's Community Improvement Fund specifically for new and renewed not-for-profit infrastructure projects such as multi-use recreational facilities. This recommendation is consistent with previous federal government infrastructure funding.

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 cost-neutral

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.

Expand eligibility for the Community Improvement Fund to charitable and not-for-profit organizations with community-based facilities that help ensure prosperous and secure rural and urban communities by creating jobs, strengthening social capital and the social determinants of health (employment, healthy living, poverty-reduction, etc.)

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

These community-based facilities serve as important community hubs, providing direct economic and social benefits to Canadians of all ages in communities in all regions across Canada. They are key providers of programs and services to youth, vulnerable populations & newcomers. The YMCA, for example, has 125 facilities that deliver programs & services from over 1000 community locations. Increasingly, new facilities are being built as local collaborative design-build-operate partnerships with municipalities and other community partners, community health and social facilities.

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 proposed recommendation will create jobs in communities; reduce chronic diseases among Canadians and contain related long-term health care costs. It will strengthen the foundation of communities by developing the social capital that underpins a prosperous society. It also creates the conditions/facilities to build scalable program delivery platforms and collaborations.

Topic: Health

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

Invest in upstream and downstream community health system initiatives and national platforms that encourage healthy living, chronic disease prevention & healthy weights, for both primary prevention and chronic disease management. New approaches to prevention, treatment and recovery are needed to contain chronic care costs and improve outcomes. While the impact of early investment is known community health system delivery options are proven to reduce costs while improving outcomes; collaborative health delivery partnerships that are patient-focused and deliver a seamless continuum of care.

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

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.

Expand PHAC funding for both community-based chronic disease prevention and management. The return on investment for upstream and downstream community health system initiatives should begin to produce measurable savings in health spending envelopes within 5-10 years.The economic burden of physical inactivity to the health system is estimated at $5.3 billion/year. Chronic diseases cost Canada nearly $93 billion yearly. The continued trajectory of health spending is not sustainable, with Canada the 5th highest spender among industrialized countries.

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

With appropriate funding, national healthy living, disease prevention and health delivery platforms can be scaled to address the needs of large numbers of Canadians. In 2007, 37% of Canadians reported diagnosis with a chronic condition or illness. 41% of seniors deal with two or more chronic conditions. Over 9 million Canadians live with diabetes or pre-diabetes (90% have Type 2). Type 2 diabetes is increasing dramatically due to: an aging population; rising obesity; sedentary lifestyles; growth rates in at-risk populations (Aboriginals; greater risk in 80% of new Canadian population groups).

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.

Direct and indirect benefits may be defined, as returns are found not only in savings in health spending envelopes but in terms of improved productivity, reduced absenteeism and other related impacts on individuals, families and society. All Canadians will benefit from moving to a more sustainable health model.

Topic: Employment, labour markets and unions

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

Focus/restructure investment in programs and agreements that support youth and vulnerable populations in achieving job market success and in community/workforce attachment, and better align with needs of sectors/ employers (e.g. youth internships in Canada and youth development programs internationally, employment and training for vulnerable populations, settlement and immigration funding programs). This investment addresses 4 out of 5 of the 2013 pre-budget consultation topics.

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 | cost-neutral

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.

1.Re-profile Employment & Social Development Canada funds to support a collaborative, multi-sector national youth internship platform – online-facilitated but supported by pre-employment & in-course training, coaching (pre-tested with federally-funded high-demand sector internships); 2. protect LMA & LMDA funds for youth employment & employment/training for high-demand sectors for vulnerable populations & newcomers; 3. maintain FAIT funds for developing skills & aptitude in today's global environment in Canadian youth & that support Canada's investment in the world's youth (jobs crisis).

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 large high-demand sector employers will benefit from better-prepared workforce & lower turnover. Young Canadians/first-time labour market entrants & vulnerable populations will benefit from stronger labour force preparedness and labour force attachment. Internationally, Canada benefits by increasing its attractiveness as a skilled labour force destination & the enhanced political, economic & social stability that supports growth in trade/ world markets.

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.

Enhancing employment opportunities will result in:

• Reduced poverty levels;
• Increased GDP growth and labour force competitiveness;
• Increased government revenue through an expanded tax base and lower social costs;
• Improved social determinants of health.

Canadian society as a whole will benefit in terms of enhanced political and social stability.

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