



August 5, 2014

Mr. James Rajotte, M.P.
Chair, Standing Committee on Finance
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Rajotte,

I am writing to endorse the Stretch Tax Credit for Charitable Giving as proposed by Imagine Canada and recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance in its report *Tax Incentives for Charitable Giving in Canada*, in February 2013.

YWCA Metro Vancouver is one of the largest and most diversified non-profits in British Columbia. Our mission is to build better futures for women and their families through advocacy and integrated services that foster economic independence, wellness, and equal opportunities.

YWCA Metro Vancouver applauds the Federal Government's work to renew and grow Canada's charitable donor base through policies such as the introduction of the First-Time Donor's Super Credit in 2013. Donation levels overall have declined in recent years and a lower percentage of Canadians are making donations. This, combined with increasing costs and cuts to funding by all levels of government, is making it increasingly difficult for us to meet the growing demands of the vulnerable families that we support.

One area of focus of our work in recent years has been the development of several new supported housing communities for single mothers and their children who are at risk of homelessness, (including with support through the Federal Government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy). The large capital campaigns needed to build these projects require us to ask more and more of our current donors, many of whom already donate annually to other programs. We face donor fatigue unless we can engage new donors, particularly those outside of our current typical donor profile, or create incentives for current donors to incrementally increase their giving year after year. The Stretch Tax Credit would allow us to engage with donors of all age groups and income levels in new and ongoing ways.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input into this process and thank you for considering our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the bottom of the name.

Janet Austin
CEO, YWCA Metro Vancouver
Chair, Vancouver Board of Trade