

Whitehorse, YT

The Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Canada

July 20, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the Parliament of Canada's Standing Committee on Finance is asking all Canadians to provide their input as part of their annual pre-budget consultation hearings, I offer the following thoughts, which link together.

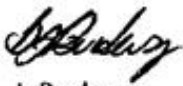
Jobs and the economy. Our people are our workforce, and thus the backbone of our economy now and into the future. Without educated people, Canada is not able to stand as strong as our potential suggests. Young people need encouragement to stay in school, graduate from high school and pursue continuing forms of education. Our education system is under pressure with seemingly more special needs children, often alcohol and drug related, than ever. With the advance of on-line education, post-secondary pursuits are broadly accessible. Education for Canadians is the key to a strong Canadian economy.

Broadband. As much as education relies on the advances of technology, many parts of Canada do not have reliable internet access. Necessary for business transactions, the internet is also a major tool for our current learning environment. We also see positive advances in medical use of technology to remote parts of our country through telehealth. Accessible Broadband for all Canadians is a requirement to stay competitive with other countries.

Health Care. The cost of health care to Canadians continues to rise. Unearth and read the 2002 Romano Report (http://www.cbc.ca/healthcare/final_report.pdf), *Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada* and act on the collective wisdom of the Canadians that provided input into this report. As more and more Canadians get caught in the web of alcohol, drug abuse and poverty, self-responsibility and self-respect decline, and costs rise. Act now, not later.

Thank you for seeking budget input from Canadians. Jobs and a strong economy start with our people—education, health and the availability of technology to sustain our futures.

Regards



B. J. Buckway