

January 17, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Rajotte,

I am writing to you in your role as chair of the Standing Committee on Finance regarding your announced study on tax incentives for charitable donations.

Canada's universities are increasingly creating alliances, partnerships and initiatives of shared purpose with governments, businesses, local communities and voluntary groups. These partnerships, which benefit Canada and Canadians, improve the transfer of knowledge, encourage a culture of innovation and help to concentrate the best minds on the toughest problems. To continue to build lasting partnerships and enhance the excellence that is a hallmark of Canadian higher education, our universities must continue to create such alliances.

As your committee reviews ways of strengthening charitable giving, we would ask you to consider the importance of private sector donations to universities. New donation incentives could diversify the ways in which donors can contribute and broaden the donor base.

In 2006, the capital gains tax on donations of publicly-listed securities to public charities was eliminated, resulting in a significant increase of gifts and pledges of stock to charities, including universities. Considering the importance of charitable donations for our members, and taking into account the current economic situation, AUCC encourages the Committee to recommend that the government consider other such measures to augment private charitable donations.

Thank you for giving our suggestions your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Davidson
President