<Your Name>

<Your Address>

<City, Province, Postal Code>

<Date of Letter>

<Your member of Parliament>

<Address>

<City, Province, Postal Code>

Dear <Member of Parliament>,

I am writing you as I am concerned by the federal government’s proposed taxation changes that will have an adverse effect on small businesses and independent contractors across Canada. My concerns are as follows:

<Edit accordingly>

1. The government has allotted 75 days of consultation and this is clearly an inadequate period of time to respond given the broad nature of the changes contemplated in the draft legislation shared by the Department of Finance. The last time such a significant revision to small business tax policy was contemplated was the 1964 The Royal Commission on Taxation (the “Carter Commission), which was provided over two years to study and develop recommendations for a new tax framework for Canada. The government then took another six years to finalize reasonable legislation. This could not contrast more significantly than to the government’s current approach, where only a basic 75 days of consultation, with little to no community engagement, has been provided for.
2. The Prime Minister, and Finance Minister have repeatedly made insulting accusations and insinuations in public scapegoating small business owners. This is not fair, and I believe that a true evidence based approach to policy requires that the current process should be halted in favour of a broad based reform to the benefit of all Canadians. A tax reform truly based on fairness would reduce the complexity for ordinary Canadians and small business owners to understand and comply with their tax obligations. The current tax code is incredibly complicated, and the Finance Minister’s proposal makes it substantially worse.
3. The future of work is changing, and Independent Contractors delivering professional services are a critical part of the Canadian economy today, and will be even more so in the future. Government policy at all levels should recognize this as an opportunity and encourage it as a source of advantage to Canada’s globally competitive workforce into the future, as opposed to punish those who are embracing these changes. A failure to change with the times will likely accelerate the current trend towards offshoring of good Canadian jobs, and once these jobs are gone, it is very difficult to win them back.

As my Member of Parliament, what is your position on the proposed changes? What will you be doing to ensure that small business and independent consultants, like myself, are treated fairly?

Sincerely,

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