



City of Langford

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2017/09/28

Minister of Finance
The Honourable William Francis Morneau
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Dear The Honourable William Morneau, Minister of Finance:

RE: Don't Tax Small Business. Help Them Build Our Communities and Grow the Economy.

I am writing to express my concern, and the concerns of many of my constituents, for the damage that the Federal government's proposed tax reform policies will do to the future of small business, the economy, and our communities across Canada.

When I was first elected in 1992, our City had chronic double digit unemployment. I looked to the small business sector as my only hope to get jobs and prosperity for our residents. The City of Langford worked hand in hand with small businesses to create a strong trusting relationship. Our community's success, and the improved health and well-being of our residents, are a direct result of the hard work of small business, the employment they provide our residents, and their ongoing support for local charities, sports teams, and various other events.

With this in mind, I'm deeply concerned that the Federal government may hurt many small businesses with the proposed tax reform policies, instead of supporting small businesses to provide jobs and to give back to our communities. This may be the start of economic decline and viability for small business across the country.

So instead of taxing this lifeblood of our communities, I suggest the Federal government help expand the small business base in our country by committing to grow the small business sector by 5%. In doing so, the government would add more jobs, grow our economy and our communities, and, I'm sure, get enough revenue to fund new and important programs.

I also suggest the Federal government extend the October 2nd deadline for submissions on the proposed tax reform policies by 90 days, as communication on the changes may not have adequately reached certain parts of the country, including the West Coast. I have been receiving daily complaints and concerns from small businesses expressing that they feel cut off from the tax reform consultation process, that it is creating stress and uncertainty, and that they are concerned about the future should the changes take effect. Extending the consultation period by 90 days would allow the small business community the time to consider and share their views with the Federal government on this important issue.

Minister Morneau, while the Federal government is doing a great job on many fronts, I believe the proposed tax reforms will hurt the growth of small businesses here and across the country, and I ask that you abandon this damaging course of action.

In my years as Mayor of Langford, my Council and I have consulted and cooperated with small business to grow our tax base, add more jobs and improve the quality of life for our residents. Your government can do the same by working with the great men and women that represent the largest job creating and tax paying sector in Canada – small business.

Thank you Minister Morneau for taking the time to consider the concerns raised in this letter and the above recommendations. If you, or anyone in your office would like to contact me, I have 25 years in politics and 35 years as a small business owner, and I would be happy to speak with you further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stewart Young', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Stewart Young
City of Langford