

From: Chris Struthers


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To: Richard Cannings (NDP)
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Dear Mr Cannings,

I am a constituent in your riding. I write to you with my concerns regarding the proposed tax changes on small businesses.

While I'm sure you are probably in agreement with the stated principles - raising taxes on the wealthy to support the middle class, I have some serious concerns that apply regardless of where one might sit on the political spectrum:

1) Good Policy Takes Time

These changes are being rammed through with a very short consultation period beginning smack in the middle of summer. Experts are sounding the alarm over the multitude of unintended consequences these proposals will have. Fair & meaningful tax reform is worthwhile but it needs more time and genuine consultation.

2) Impacts to Low & Middle Income Businesses

The Government claims that only high earners will be impacted. This is patently false. I'm sure your people can do the very basic research to know this will affect virtually all small businesses.

3) Destroying People's Savings is Unfair

The minister claims that business owners can use RRSPs instead of holding investments in their companies. While that may be true - what about Business owners like myself, whom, following the rules, have forgone T4 income for years to keep a contingency & retirement fund in our business. We have no RRSP room for all those years and now we will be penalized.

4) Impacts to Healthcare

The United States is facing a doctor shortage of over 90,000 in the coming years. Canada has just 88,000 physicians in the whole country.

Incorporation has been encouraged by the provinces as a sweetener in lieu of pay raises.

Eliminating the incentives that incorporation provides essentially means a significant pay cut.

Regardless of ones position on what fair compensation should look like, these tax changes will only drive more of our doctors away.

That really concerns me - my family doctor is nearing retirement age and new graduates with crushing debt loads will be enticed to practise in the United States.

As my local representative to the House of Commons, and a member of one of the opposing parties, I trust you will do your best to hold the sitting government to account on the concerns.

Thank-you,



Christopher Struthers.

PS - Don't even get me started on the stock option deduction they still allow - shaking down small business instead!