

August 28, 2017
Mr. John Aldag
Member of Parliament
19211 Fraser Highway, Unit 5
Surrey, BC V3S 7C9

Dear Mr. Aldag,

I'm writing to you to express my extreme disappointment regarding the federal tax proposals. These proposals are about as short-sighted and mean-spirited as anything I have seen from any level of government.

Your consultation period is simply a poor joke, 75 days during the summer when parliament isn't sitting and many people are away on vacation. The briefness and timing of this consultation period tells me that your government is trying to avoid any actual consultation, and push this through with as minimal discussion as possible. These proposals are so wide-reaching and impacting all Canadians regardless of income level, that at a minimum this consultation period must be extended to give sufficient time for discussion.

The rhetoric from your government is appalling. Using the terms such as "loophole" and "crackdown" is done for no other purpose than to turn the public against people who have been honest and law-abiding taxpayers. The current rules were brought in decades ago specifically with these intentions in mind, they are not "loopholes".

These proposals will have a crippling effect on small business owners and professionals, as the tax rates will skyrocket. Many small businesses fail, having borrowed heavily to start, and need these tax rules to allow them to survive long enough to become profitable. Professionals typically graduate with hundreds of thousands in student loans. Why would anyone take the risk of starting a business and putting their financial lives at risk if they're just going to have it all taxed away?

In my practice I meet with many medical professionals, young and old, many of whom tell me they feel betrayed by your government. They are asking serious questions about moving to the States, working less, or retiring earlier. So while the government is telling the public that these proposals will only affect the wealthy, what happens to the staff that these professionals have or would have hired if the professional decides they've had enough of working in such a draconian tax regime? There will be layoffs and reduced hours for office staff, or no jobs and taxes ever created if the young professionals decide to move. These professionals are not coming to me with idle speculation, they are quite serious in wanting to know what it would be like to work just south of the border.

I would like to request a meeting, in person, to discuss these proposals. If these proposals go through as is with such minimal consultation, not only will I be actively supporting your opponent in the next federal election, but will encourage my clients, family, and friends to do so as well.

Chris George, CFP, CLU, CHS, TEP

Surrey, BC