

Minister of Finance



Ministre des Finances

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G5

March 18, 2013.

Dear Colleagues,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution to the pre-budget consultation process. Your thoughts, ideas and initiatives have been extremely helpful as I develop Canada's Economic Action Plan 2013.

As we put the final touches on this year's Plan it is important to note that jobs and the economy remain our Government's top priority. Since the depth of the Great Recession, the Canadian economy has created over 950,000 net new jobs. These are overwhelmingly full-time, well-paying, private sector jobs.

While the Canadian economy continues to grow and create jobs our recovery is fragile. We face significant threats from abroad. The United States, our largest trading partner, is burdened with massive debt and slow economic growth and the European Union is in recession. Meanwhile, emerging economies are becoming stronger and more competitive.

In Economic Action Plan 2012, we made a choice. We chose to take decisive action to ensure our economy will create good jobs and sustain a higher quality of life for hardworking Canadian families. We chose to start taking the necessary steps to position Canada for success in the 21st century global economy.

Economic Action Plan 2013 will build on the strong foundation we laid last year – in fact, the strong foundation we laid since 2006 – to create jobs, growth, and long-term prosperity for hardworking Canadian families.

Economic Action Plan 2013 will create jobs and economic growth by:

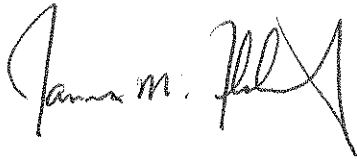
- ***Connecting Canadians with Available Jobs*** - There are too many jobs that go unfilled in Canada because employers can't find workers with the right skills. Training in Canada is not sufficiently aligned to the skills employers need. This means higher unemployment and slower economic growth than we should otherwise expect. We can do better. In Canadian's Economic Action Plan 2013 we will take steps to address this important issue.

Canada¹³¹

- ***Building on our unprecedented investments in infrastructure*** - Since 2006, we have made substantial investments in roads, bridges, commuter rail, and other job creating infrastructure. In fact, our Government has invested in over 43,000 projects as a result of the Building Canada Plan and the stimulus phase of the Economic Action Plan. We will do more.
- ***Supporting high-quality, value-added jobs in important sectors of the Canadian economy*** - Canada's manufacturers and processors employ approximately 1.8 million Canadians in a wide range of industries across Canada. The manufacturing sector has started to rebound following the global recession due, in part, to measures taken by our Government. There is more we can and will do to support this important sector of the Canadian economy.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Budget Day.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Flaherty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and "F".

James M. Flaherty
Minister of Finance