



**Burnaby Association  
for Community Inclusion**

February 17, 2015

Peter Julian, MP  
7615 Sixth Street  
Burnaby, BC  
V3N 3M6

Dear Peter,

I am writing to endorse the proposed Stretch Tax Credit for Charitable Giving as recommended by Imagine Canada in its pre-budget submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance.

**I urge you to support the inclusion of this innovative tax credit in Budget 2015. The Stretch Tax Credit would increase the federal charitable tax credit for individuals by ten percentage points on all giving that exceeds previous donations.**

As you know, the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACi) is a non-profit organization that has spent almost 60 years providing innovative services for children, youth and adults with disabilities and their families. We currently serve over 1,000 individuals and their families in Metro Vancouver, helping to advance their social and economic inclusion by providing various training, development, social and recreational opportunities. With our four integrated child care centres, we support over 120 children of all abilities and their families.

A few of our programs in the Children's Services area -- as well as our more leading-edge initiatives to advance inclusion -- receive little or no government funding. The continuance of these life-changing initiatives are dependent on donations from individuals and other community partners.

The First-Time Donor's Super Credit introduced in Budget 2013 was an important first step in revitalizing Canada's donor base. But the Super Credit is only a temporary measure and it does not recognize people who already give and would give a bit more if it were easier to do so.

While Canadians are known worldwide for their generosity, government figures show that the number of people making donations, and the amount they donate, have declined. We also know from government research that a majority of Canadians say they would give more if tax credits

were enhanced. The Stretch Tax Credit would give Canadians the incentive to give more and would encourage them to think more strategically about their life-long giving.

Increased levels of giving would greatly impact the work BACI is able to do in supporting children, youth and adults with disabilities to access more opportunities for social and economic inclusion in their communities. To contribute more to their communities. To live better lives.

When the House of Commons Finance Committee held hearings in 2012 on tax incentives for charitable giving, more than 70 percent of the charities that testified supported the Stretch Tax Credit. The Committee recommended the Stretch for serious consideration, and in introducing the First-Time Donor's Super Credit, the 2013 budget committed the federal government to "work with the charitable sector, including Imagine Canada, to encourage more donations by a greater number of Canadians." Implementing the Stretch Tax Credit in the 2015 budget would fulfil this commitment.

The Stretch Tax Credit for Charitable Giving is an innovative, high impact policy proposal that will immensely benefit Canadians and communities both here at home and around the world. It is about creating and sustaining a culture of incremental and life-long giving and it is the right thing to do.

I urge you to support the Stretch Tax Credit and work towards its inclusion in the 2015 federal budget. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [richard.faucher@gobaci.com](mailto:richard.faucher@gobaci.com) or at 778.888.1553.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Faucher', with a stylized, flowing script.

Richard Faucher  
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Joe Oliver, PC, MP  
Minister of Finance