House of Commons
Chambre des communes
Canada

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

(•) **an organization** **Organization name:** National Farmers Union

or

( ) **an individual** **Name:** _____

Topic: Agriculture, food and fisheries

*Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Because farmers spend $1.8 billion annually on purchasing seed. Because seed and other input costs are rising more rapidly than the revenue obtained from crops, the NFU calls on the federal government to invest in public interest basic and agronomic research of plant varieties that will remain in the public sphere, and available to farmers at reasonable costs. Last year's budget allocated more than $2 billion in research funding; fully half of that amount should be used for public interest research.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$500 million-$999.9 million

5 or more years

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

In addition to the re-allocation of a billion dollars as noted above, corporate tax rates should be increased by half a percent, and loopholes to escape taxation closed. Collect back taxes from wealthy Canadians who have avoided paying their share of taxes by secreting funds in off-shore accounts. Reduce subsidization of tar sands and natural gas development and free up substantial funding to spend on activities that protect our commons - soil, water and air - and which ensure our ability to feed ourselves in the future, especially given the unknown climatic changes we face.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

Farmers would benefit from more reasonable seed costs and the retention of their rights to save, store, re-use and sell seed. Consumers everywhere would be assured of greater access to safe, healthy food. There would be increased call for scientists, researchers and technical staff to conduct public interest research. Canadians could prepare for the challenges of growing food in as yet unknown climatic conditions. Canada`s reputation for cutting-edge agronomic and plant research would be reclaimed.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

A strong public-interest basic and agronomic research program would ensure that interested young Canadians can pursue a research career in the field. Experienced scientists and researchers with career-long investments will be assured of continued support, bridging the past and future landscape of Canadian research by mentoring new entrants to their specialties. Basic public interest research generates returns over a decade or more. Likewise, pay-offs are long term, measured in a vibrant Canadian research community, economic stability and the resources to continue to produce food.

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

Please select from the drop down menu

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

Please select from the drop down menu

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided