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ASSOCIATION



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ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK

BALTA  
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canadian centre  
for community  
renewal

Strengthening Resilience -  
Transforming Local Economies

22 October 2013

The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Employment and Social Development  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

It was a great pleasure for many of us to meet you earlier this month during your participation at the Social Enterprise World Forum in Calgary. Your presence and openness to engagement were a welcome contribution to an outstanding international event which several of us were partners in organizing.

Over the past several years, our organizations have collaborated to build consensus around a framework to support social innovation in partnership with government. Collectively, we represent and have membership from thousands of social enterprises, co-operatives and civil society organizations dedicated to creating local businesses that blend social and economic goals, responding to community needs with innovative results.

The Forum was a landmark event to raise awareness of social enterprise in Canada and draw attention both to the many successful examples as well as the even greater untapped potential. Your message of enthusiastic and unqualified support from the Government of Canada was a high point and was warmly welcomed.

During your speech, you mentioned an upcoming meeting in Ottawa to establish a work plan of actions that can be taken at the federal level in order to facilitate the expansion of social enterprise. We encourage you to consider the following, which we have identified as strategic priorities for the sector:

- Expand social enterprise market opportunities through targeted social purchasing and community benefit criteria for government purchasing
- Improve the training and awareness of civil servants and service providers delivering federal small and medium enterprise support programs to clarify the eligibility of social enterprises
- Work with the Canada Revenue Agency and Finance Canada to provide clarity and the assurance of acceptable business activities undertaken by non-profit and charitable organizations
- Use strategic public investments to catalyze private investment in social enterprise, through investments in a new or existing fund or through appropriate tax incentives
- Support the sharing of knowledge, best practices and applicable research
- Continue government and sector dialogue to create an enabling public policy environment across federal departments and with provincial counterparts

We would be happy to work with you and your staff to discuss details and strategies for implementing these recommendations.

Together, we are confident that we can dramatically scale up the success of social enterprise as a means to create employment and address Canada's most pressing, complex social challenges.

Sincerely,

Michael Toye  
Canadian CED Network

Nancy Neamtan  
Chantier de l'économie sociale

Denyse Guy  
Canadian Co-operative Association

Rosalind Lockyer  
Women's Economic Council

David LePage  
Social Enterprise  
Council of Canada

Cathy Taylor  
Ontario Nonprofit Network

Mike Lewis  
Canadian Centre for  
Community Renewal