



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Hon. Karina Gould

Member of Parliament
Burlington

February 19, 2021

The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, P.C., MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Dear Minister ^{Chrystia} Freeland,

On February 19th, 2021, I hosted a Virtual Pre-Budget Town Hall where constituents had the opportunity to directly engage with me as their Member of Parliament to share their views on what should be included in Budget 2021.

Throughout the event, Burlingtonians shared with me their ideas on how our government can stimulate job creation, strengthen and grow the middle class, and build a better economy for everyone. My constituents expressed their views on supporting small and medium sized businesses, a national childcare program, targeted support for the hard-hit sectors, job incentivization, sustainability, and ensuring the workforce has the skills they need to succeed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit local businesses extremely hard. Ensuring that small and medium-sized businesses have the support they need, not only to stay open, but to thrive and grow was a big concern. This is especially true for women entrepreneurs, newcomers, and racialized business-owners. Burlington business owners have been able to utilize federal programs such as the SR&ED Program and IRAP to prosper and succeed; and they hope to see these and other programs continue and expand.

The need for a long-term strategy to help businesses recover from the pandemic is also something that my constituents were very passionate about. As you know, the arts, tourism, and hospitality sectors have been particularly hard hit. While short-term support such as the CEWS and CEBA have supported numerous businesses, recovery may be slow for some, thus the need for long-term solutions.

Job creation was also highlighted as an important component of Canada's recovery. Recommendations included ensuring that the workforce has the skills they need to succeed - and making sure that the right incentives are in place to get Canadians back to work.

Burlingtonians recognize that during the pandemic, the threat of climate change has not gone away. The support for bold climate action and ensuring a green recovery is more profound than ever.

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In particular, stakeholders have shared that educating business owners and community leaders about the need to implement sustainable business practices is imperative.

Continued federal support for charities and community organizations during the pandemic was also discussed. Many of these charities have been on the front lines, supporting the most vulnerable Canadians. Without the necessary resources, they are unable to continue their vital work.

Another area of importance mentioned during the town hall was the need for a national child-care plan that supports parents and allows children to not only grow but thrive. A national child-care plan needs to be inclusive, equitable, and take into account the diverse needs of Canadian families.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to review the recommendations my constituents have put forward for Budget 2021 in my Virtual Pre-Budget Townhall. For a detailed list of recommendations, please see the attached appendix. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (905)-639-5757 or karina.gould.c1a@parl.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Hon. Karina Gould
Member of Parliament
Burlington

Appendix

Inclusive Recovery

1. An inclusive national childcare plan
2. Greater support for mental health
3. Consideration of the diverse needs of school aged children. Many do not benefit from the public school system and require specialized education. This is a financial burden for parents.
4. Many funding opportunities have a short application time, and a long wait period.

COVID-19 Emergency Support

1. Please amend CERS so that businesses with their real estate in a holding company are able to apply.
2. Condominium fees are not listed under non-deferable expenses for CERB.
3. Provide support for businesses who started right before the pandemic or during the pandemic.

Job Creation

1. More incentive programs to bring talent into the workforce.
2. Scale investments to the needs of diverse groups including women, newcomers to Canada, and racialized Canadians.
 - a. Support for women entrepreneurs.
3. Continue with the expansion of the Canada Summer Jobs Program.
4. Infrastructure investments will also benefit job creation.
5. A greater focus on students and new graduates is needed.

Innovation

1. Expand the SR&ED program to include sales and marketing companies. This would allow more women to benefit from the program.
2. Continue and support IRAP.
3. Fibre to factory – businesses need more bandwidth.
4. Wide support for manufacturing is great – but there is a need for wider support for clusters rather than just individual companies.

Recovery

1. 3-5 year strategies for hardest hit industries including the arts and hospitality.
2. Continue funding along the lines of the Safe Restart Agreement.
 - a. Increased funding to municipalities.
3. Ensure that our recovery is a green recovery. Ensure that it is easier for businesses to be greener.
4. Lowering the small business tax rate.

Not-For-Profit

1. Bridge funding to support not-for-profits in important areas of work, like employment services – in particular in the skilled trades, mental health, career development and career navigation for youth and recent graduates.

2. The opportunity for multi-year funding and funding renewals to organizations with a history of success and partnership.
3. A reform of the not-for-profit sector's relationship with the government, to ensure the government is considering our sector's unique needs when considering COVID-19 supports.