**Template Letter re: tax changes**

Some members have asked us for a template letter to send to elected government officials expressing concerns about the proposed tax changes.

Feel free to copy and paste from the second page of this document into your own letterhead.

We encourage you, if you use this template, to add information about your particular situation – how the tax changes will affect you and your patients.

**We suggest sending your letter to:**

Hon Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance

Bill.Morneau@parl.gc.ca

Hon Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

And your local MP

Search: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>

**TEMPLATE LETTER**

Dear XXXX,

I am a physician in BC who practices [*practice/specialty]* in [*community*]. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed tax changes for small businesses.

Physicians in community-based practices form private corporations to effectively invest in the clinics we run as small businesses – clinics that provide the infrastructure for patient access to care in Canada. Like all small business owners, we do not receive retirement and health care benefits that go to salaried employees. Our staff receive benefits, as employees, that physician employers must purchase privately for themselves. Doctors, unlike many salaried employees, pay for their own medical coverage, extended health benefits, and retirement. In addition, more than 30% of our revenue goes toward overhead costs, including equipment purchases/maintenance and salaries for staff who in turn support their families and pay taxes. Incorporating our business helps to balance this inequality by compensating physicians in a fair and reasonable manner and making our practices sustainable. As you are likely aware, for years provincial governments across the country have encouraged us to use these legal tax structures for this very reason.

The impact of the proposed changes will also be felt by patients. Right now in BC, more than 50% of medical students are choosing to become family doctors. However, if the proposed changes become law, effectively reducing privately practicing physicians’ income to the point where it will be difficult to run a practice, those numbers will drop. That would be detrimental at a time when the province is already facing a significant challenge meeting patient demand for care.

I strongly disagree with your proposed changes – changes that will hurt physicians, patients, and our health care system as a whole.

*[Your Signature]*

*[Name & Contact Information]*