Welcome to TAX ALERT, a weekly dispatch about the proposed federal tax changes. Should you not wish to receive these emails, please contact us directly at YourVoice@cma.ca to be removed from this subscription list.

CMA ADVOCACY UPDATE
Our advocacy campaign is going strong, with the CMA being the first national association to meet with Finance Minister Bill Morneau. But your continued engagement is needed, as the government appears intent on proceeding with its “tax fairness” agenda. Media is reporting that the proposed tax changes will feature prominently during the Kelowna Liberal Caucus meeting next week. The CMA will also be in Kelowna, hosting a member engagement session on the implications for female physicians. We’ll share these stories on social media, and will seize the opportunity to conduct media interviews.

The Coalition for Small Business Tax Fairness was officially launched this week and the CMA is being joined by a group of 35 small business operators to oppose these changes. The collective weight of the coalition will prove critical as we near the end of the consultation period. We know that our members’ voices need to be stronger than ever. At this juncture, we urge all members to voice their concerns and ask the government to extend the consultation period as the implications of these changes are simply too profound to proceed as planned.

MEETING WITH FEDERAL FINANCE MINISTER — AUG. 30
On Aug. 30, CMA and PTMA elected officials and senior staff members met with Finance Minister Morneau, at his request, to present the concerns of physicians and the small business community. The delegation spoke to the realities of operating a medical practice as a small business: that physicians rely on working capital to expand practice coverage, and that they require having funds available to purchase equipment and supplies, or to offset unanticipated costs, sick or parental leave, staff turn-over, and other business-related expenses. We also expressed our openness to work together to find better solutions that would enable the government to achieve its objectives, while not hindering physicians’ ability to run successful medical practices and deliver care to Canadians. Minister Morneau admitted that his department does not have all the answers, and invited members of the CMA delegation to send in detailed scenarios about how these proposed changes might, in the opinion of physicians, have a negative impact on their practices.

BUSINESS GROUPS UNITE AGAINST TAX CHANGES
A group of 35 organizations, including the CMA, has formed the Coalition for Small Business Tax Fairness — a unified voice to oppose the federal government’s tax proposal. The coalition — on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of members they represent — has presented a letter to Minister Morneau asking the government not to move forward with the proposals and instead to meet with the business community to address the policy shortcomings.

6,000 LETTERS SENT – LET’S NOT STOP NOW!
You’ve sent over 6,000 letters to government using our new letter-writing tool. Don’t miss your opportunity to sends yours — it takes is a few clicks. There’s also still time to meet with your MP before the House of Commons resumes on Sept. 18 — email YourVoice@cma.ca for assistance in scheduling a meeting.

NEWS STORIES OF THE WEEK

- "Canada’s Health-Care System Has An Expiration Date", The Huffington Post, August 28
- "John Ivison: Surprise! Doctors don't like being branded tax cheats", National Post, August 29
- "Open letter to PM Trudeau", Dr. Deepa Soni, August 29
- "Concern mounts over Morneau’s proposed tax changes affecting small businesses", The Globe and Mail, August 30

We encourage you to share these stories with your colleagues on your social media channels or by email to help spread the message further.

PROPOSED TWEETS FOR THE WEEK

- New tax reforms from @Bill_Morneau affect not only physicians, but all small businesses. Have your say: http://ow.ly/UNls30ezNnZ #TaxFairness
- Proposed tax reforms are simply too profound to proceed as planned — tell your MP: http://ow.ly/UNls30ezNnZ #TaxFairness
- Over 6,000 strong; join other Canadians in telling our government how tax reforms are unfair: http://ow.ly/UNls30ezNnZ #TaxFairness

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Fact sheet: “Let’s Talk Facts and Fairness”
- FAQ on the proposed tax changes

Unsubscribe from this list.

Canadian Medical Association, 1867 Alta Vista Dr., Ottawa, ON K1G 5W8
Tel (toll free): 1-888-855-2555

© Canadian Medical Association