CMA ADVOCACY UPDATE
As anticipated, the proposed tax reform took centre-stage in the House of Commons this week. A reference to doctors by the Prime Minister was not well received by the profession and many Canadians who, irrespective of their stand on the tax issue, recognize and value doctors’ commitment and dedication to patient care. In response, and as part of his statement to the Finance Committee on Thursday, Dr. Marcoux emphasized the importance of respect for physicians and all health care professions.

As a result of a motion moved by a Liberal MP, the Finance Committee will initiate a brief study of the tax proposal starting the week of September 25. A total of three meetings will be held, and the Minister of Finance will be asked to participate in the final meeting. The CMA is working with the coalition on the best strategy for this meeting, recognizing the limited number of organizations that will be asked to present.

This week, the CMA received a letter from physician-members who support the tax proposal. In their letter, the signatories emphasized the need for a comprehensive review of the tax system, while expressing support for the measures identified in the proposal. We appreciate hearing from all members on this issue and welcome this diversity of perspectives.

THE COALITION CONTINUES ITS PUSH
The Coalition for Small Business Tax Fairness, which represents 63 organizations, is maintaining its high profile and media attention, and is preparing to issue a second letter to the government. The letter will continue to call on the government to set aside these changes in favour of a comprehensive review of Canadian tax policy.

FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARS OUR CONCERNS
The CMA had an opportunity to advance our concerns when Dr. Marcoux presented to the House of Commons Finance Committee on September 21. While the Finance Committee was hearing from stakeholders as part of its 2018 pre-budget consultation, we took this opportunity to also address the issue of taxation. Read our statement here.

MORE WOMEN PHYSICIANS SPEAKING OUT
Three more women physicians have shared their concerns with the gender implications of the proposed tax changes. Click here to listen to their stories.

YOUR LETTERS KEEP ON COMING
Over the past six weeks, members have sent over 9,000 letters to their MPs on the proposed changes. Make sure the government knows where you stand and help us hit the 10K mark by clicking here to send your letter today.
NEWS STORIES OF THE WEEK

- "Globe editorial: How the Liberals are blowing it on small business tax reform", Globe and Mail Editorial, September 16

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

PROPOSED TWEETS FOR THE WEEK

- Help ensure #TaxFairness for all small businesses — write your MP by clicking here. #UnfairTaxChanges #TaxFairness http://ow.ly/KW3i30fhIJV
- Whether you're a physician, farmer or lawyer, you deserve to be taxed fairly. Help fight #UnfairTaxChanges #TaxFairness http://ow.ly/AVPl30fhm7d
- Hear how women physicians, including CMA pres-elect @DrGigiOsler, are affected by proposed #UnfairTaxChanges #TaxFairness http://ow.ly/F8BP30fhmAG

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: