Welcome to TAX ALERT, a weekly dispatch about the proposed federal tax changes.

CMA ADVOCACY UPDATE

While our technical brief is now in the hands of the Department of Finance, our work is not yet done and the CMA needs your help. MPs will be in their ridings next week and we encourage physicians to give their offices a call. You can find your MP’s contact info by following this link; you may also find these speaking points helpful when discussing your concerns.

Media attention remains focused on the tax proposal, with the National Finance Committee in the Senate now studying the proposal. Minister Morneau appeared in front the Committee on October 3, where he indicated that changes are being considered. Of particular interest to CMA members, the Minister stated the following:

- “We’ve heard from people that it’s critically important that small businesses retain the ability to invest in their business and communities. We want to make sure we have a methodology in place that doesn’t change that opportunity for small businesses.
- We heard from women entrepreneurs and women professionals that they’re concerned that they have the ability to take time off work for family situations, or for other situations potentially, and what they’ve been doing, in some cases, is using their Canadian-controlled, private corporation to save so they can average out to a lower tax rate when they are off. We want to make sure that that advantage continues, and that we don’t, in any way, disadvantage women. That’s important to us.
- … we’ll probably have to find some way to grandfather what people have been doing in the past so they’re not impacted negatively. Their actions were legitimate…”

In the following weeks, the CMA expects to be invited to appear in front of the committee as well. We’ll keep you updated.

Our collective advocacy work needs to continue, and the CMA is inviting all members to use the letter-writing tool to send a new letter to MPs. We urge all members to visit the taxation page on cma.ca for new messages and a FAQ as well.

FINANCE CANADA CONSULTATION CLOSES

On Monday, Oct. 2, the Department of Finance closed their public consultation on tax planning using private corporations. The CMA submitted a technical brief as part of the consultation, in which we asked the government to suspend their proposal, and to conduct a comprehensive review of the tax system, with fairness as the goal. Please click here to read our full brief.

OUR WORK IS NOT YET DONE: NEW LETTER-WRITING TOOL LAUNCHED

The public consultation may have closed, but the government has indicated that they’re listening to the many voices on this important issue and are now hinting at potential changes. While they take the time to review feedback received, we need to keep up the momentum! We’ve launched a new letter-writing tool so you can let your MP and Minister Morneau know how these proposed changes will affect you. It’s not too late to speak up!

NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT CMA.CA/TAXATION

As we continue to press for change, we urge all members to visit cma.ca for updated key messages and frequently asked
questions on the proposed changes.

NEWS STORIES OF THE WEEK

- "Why doctors are angry over the Liberals' tax plan" (Gated), Globe and Mail, September 29
- "Liberals hear fresh warnings on tax reform as consultations end", Macleans, October 3
- "Bill Morneau should refine tax proposals, then look at larger reform: Editorial", Toronto Star, October 2
- "Réforme fiscale: des libéraux appuient en coulisse l'offensive conservatrice", La Presse, September 27
- "La réforme Morneau, les riches et les entrepreneurs", Journal de Montréal, September 27

Please 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

- ✔️ Fair tax reform takes time – read the CMA’s submission to @FinanceCanada: #UnfairTaxChanges #TaxFairness
  http://ow.ly/yxVB30fBQSw
- ✔️ It’s time to engage all Canadians in a comprehensive review of the tax system. Read the CMA’s tax reform submission:
  #UnfairTaxChanges #TaxFairness http://ow.ly/yxVB30fBQSw

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit the taxation page on cma.ca for more information and resources.

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