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John Brassard
Member of Parliament
Barrie-Innisfil

March 31, 2016

RE: Liberal Government's cancellation of child activity tax credits

Dear local organizations,

Please be advised that the recent Federal Budget cancels the Children's Fitness and Art Tax Credits introduced by the previous Conservative Government. I am writing to make your organization aware of the changes so you can inform those who are registering for the programs you offer. I encourage you to share this information on your website, at your place of business, through social media or by any other means you deem appropriate.

The limits parents were able to claim on their returns for programs of a physical or artistic nature were up to \$1000 and \$500 per year respectively. These will no longer be allowed after July 1st, 2016. Limits for the 2016 tax year are now reduced to \$500 and \$250 and payments for these programs must be made prior to July 1st in order to qualify. For the tax year 2017, these tax credits are eliminated altogether.

According to the Department of Finance, the Children's Fitness Tax Credit resulted in approximately \$1.13 billion in total federal tax savings for Canadian families since the credit was implemented in 2006; the comparable amount for the Children's Art Tax Credit, which was implemented in 2011, is \$190 million.

Not only did the fitness credit help with costs for parents, it supported organizations like yours and helped promote healthier lifestyles. It is unfortunate the government has chosen to cancel these credits and I personally believe it sends the wrong message to Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Brassard', with a small flourish at the end.

MP Barrie-Innisfil
Opposition Critic, Urban Affairs