

Government Relations Information Bulletin

October 28, 2011

This morning the Globe and Mail published an article entitled *Ottawa looks at rewriting rules on charitable giving*. In summary, the Government of Canada is looking at changing the way it finances charities and non-profit organizations to increase accountability of these organizations and to change public expectations.

The new role of government in assisting social causes will likely impact many CAGP-ACPD members in the charitable sector. Policies being considered include new tax rules to allow charities and non-profits to raise money through side businesses, and boosting personal tax credits for charitable giving. The proposed first step would be changes to traditional grants.

With the government's blessing, MPs on the House of Commons finance committee will soon embark on a broad round of hearings on reforming the rules related to charities. Peter Braid, the Kitchener-Waterloo Conservative MP who proposed the study, said he was concerned by the "double whammy" of declining charitable donations and greater need for services because of the recession.

Many of the ideas the government is looking at are inspired by a report that was released last December and received little public attention. The 37-page National Task Force on Social Finance contained several recommendations on what Ottawa could do to mobilize "private capital for public good."

CAGP-ACPD we will be scheduling a few meetings in November to learn more about the proposed reform of the rules on charitable giving and will keep you informed on any related development.

The Globe and Mail is taking an in-depth look at the evolution of philanthropy over a series of articles. You can keep track of this series [here](#).