



# The Muttart Foundation

1150 Scotia Place, 10060 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5J 3R8

Telephone (780) 425-9616 Fax (780) 425-0282

Toll-Free 1-877-788-5437 [www.muttart.org](http://www.muttart.org)

Direct Phone: (780) 421-0261  
e-mail: [bwyatt@muttart.org](mailto:bwyatt@muttart.org)

January 16, 2009

***By fax to 613-992-8320***

Hon. Jim Flaherty  
Minister of Finance  
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Minister:

Earlier today, you received a brief from Imagine Canada, calling for certain measures to assist Canada's charities and nonprofit organizations during this time of economic difficulty. The Muttart Foundation endorses this brief and asks that you consider the recommendations for inclusion in the budget you will table later this month.

The Muttart Foundation is a private foundation, established in 1953, to assist Canadian charities. Its work brings it in touch with charities throughout western Canada and across Canada. As a member of Imagine Canada, The Muttart Foundation works with others for the betterment of those organizations which serve Canadians in every community in our country.

Like our counterpart organizations, The Muttart Foundation has experienced investment losses that have significantly reduced the value of its endowment. Despite this, our Board of Directors has decided to maintain our funding at historical levels. We have concluded this is not the time for us to make reductions. As Imagine Canada notes in its brief, the economic difficulties have increased the demands made of charities and nonprofits, and our Board sees it as its responsibility to assist charities to meet those demands.

We recognize the many demands being placed on the federal government for economic stimulus measures. We ask that in considering those demands, you bear in mind the report of Statistics Canada demonstrating the important contribution of the voluntary sector to Canada's GDP. In the Satellite Accounts report, Statistics Canada says:



Investing in Communities for 50 Years

Established in 1953 by Merrill D. Muttart and Gladys E. Muttart

. . . [T]he core nonprofit sector generated almost three times as much value added as the motor vehicle manufacturing industry, 50% more than agriculture, and about the same as the entire accommodation and food services industry.

The broader nonprofit sector, which includes hospitals, universities and colleges, was over seven times larger than the motor vehicle manufacturing industry, and over three times larger than each of agriculture and the accommodation and food services industry. It also exceeded the value of the entire retail trade industry.

Moreover, as noted recently, funds spent by the voluntary sector generally stay within the community, providing a flow-through effect to stimulate the economy of those communities.

Imagine Canada's recommendations to maintain the level of government funding is critical. Not only will it ensure continued federal support of charities and nonprofits, but it will also send an important message to provincial and municipal governments, who also carry out work through the voluntary sector.

The recommendation to allocate funding from infrastructure support programs is another important step. The government's decision to include sports and cultural projects was an important start, but the need goes beyond those subsectors, and we encourage you to broaden eligibility.

Finally, The Muttart Foundation is fully supportive of the recommendation for an enhanced charitable tax credit. We think this recommendation has the potential to encourage new donors to Canada's charities, and to encourage even greater giving by existing donors. We applaud past government actions to encourage donations by high net-worth individuals; the current recommendation will act as encouragement to a broader range of donors, many of whom, we hope, would continue donating even after the tax credit reverts back to its usual level.

The brief of Imagine Canada is reasonable and realistic, and we commend it to your consideration.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Wyatt".

Bob Wyatt  
Executive Director

cc: Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper – Fax (613) 941-6900