

November 10, 2016

[consultation-policy-politique@cra-arc.gc.ca](mailto:consultation-policy-politique@cra-arc.gc.ca)

c/o Charities Directorate  
Canada Revenue Agency  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0L5

### **Re: Political Activities Consultation**

Dear Agency officials,

I am writing on behalf of the Muskoka Lakes Association a cottage association of almost 125 years working to protect the environment in Muskoka and representing over 2,300 member families and another 1,000 families from some surrounding lakes.

We are writing to express support for Imagine Canada's [political activities brief](#). Their recommendations were created with the assistance and support of 33 organizations of varying type, size and scope, from across the country.

#### **We advocate for the following:**

1. We strongly support the key recommendation of Imagine Canada that the *Income Tax Act* be amended to restore an emphasis on charitable purposes, rather than regulating how charities achieve those purposes.
2. We agree with Imagine Canada that these amendments to the Income Tax Act are a short-term solution and must be seen as only a prelude to broader legal and regulatory reform for the charitable and nonprofit sector.
3. We agree with all of Imagine Canada's recommendations about clarifying definitions and scope regarding *partisan political activity* so that we can be more confident in engaging in our work.

Imagine Canada makes more detailed recommendations regarding details of amending and clarifying existing guidance on political activities and, while we are supportive of their thrust, we strongly urge the government not to waste time revising current definitions, but rather to make the changes to the *Income Tax Act* as a first priority.

Thank you very much for allowing us this opportunity to participate. We encourage the federal government to recognize the critical role played by Canada's nonprofits and charities and to ensure regulation governing the charitable sector provides an enabling environment for us in serving our communities.

Sincerely,

Lisa Noonan, General Manager  
Muskoka Lakes Association

cc: Ontario Nonprofit Network via [info@theonnc.ca](mailto:info@theonnc.ca)