



Support the CSBA presentation to the House of Commons Finance Committee (tentative presentation date – September 18 2007). The Finance Committee requested that submissions focus on the tax system.

Below are the major points you can make in your letters and/or meetings with your Member of Parliament.

Tax Issue	Background & Details
The GST	Charging school boards for the GST is inefficient and represents a tax on already taxed money. In essence, a clawback.
The Principle	While school board revenue sources differ across the country, it is safe to say that provincial government grants and property taxes comprise the major source of revenue for school boards. Charging the GST on school board purchases means that the federal government is essentially taxing money that school boards received through taxation, a kind of double taxation which the CSBA cannot believe contributes to good policy-making or efficient tax management.
Other Information	The federal government is indirectly demonstrating its support to education through transfer payments: a laudable goal and a reasonable approach to the federal-provincial division of powers.
	The GST imposes a complicated and expensive administrative burden which has forced school boards to engage experts to comply with regulations.
Other Tax Issue Suggestions	
Green tax support for school board capital and operational investment	School boards across the country spend nearly \$3 billion annually to build, repair or maintain facilities – why not encourage 'green' spending through the tax system. Use the LEEDS Canada guidelines to evaluate the environmental impact. (Canada Green Building Council - www.cagbc.org)

The national voice of school boards • Le porte-parole national des commissions/conseils scolaires

Including your local MP in your correspondence is important to enable them to better advocate on your behalf in caucus.

It is equally important that you deal with your MP's local constituency office, as local staff are more likely to know you and be sensitive to your perspective.

Please copy your provincial school boards association and the CSBA.

Although writing before the CSBA presents is appreciated, you can send correspondence and/or meet with MP's until November when government forms its decision.

Please write:	
The Honourable James Flaherty, PC, MP	House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Your Member of Parliament	Addresses at: www.parl.gc.ca
Finance Committee Members	Addresses at: http://cmte.parl.gc.ca/cmte/CommitteeList.aspx?Lang=1&PARLSES=391&JNT=0&SELID=e18_&COM=10479

Thank you,

Marcus Tabachnick, President
Rick Johnson, Vice-President
Patricia Parulekar, National Director

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