



12 September 2025

The Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, M.P.  
Minister of Finance and National Revenue  
Department of Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Email: [minister-ministre@fin.gc.ca](mailto:minister-ministre@fin.gc.ca)

Dear Minister,

I write to you as a follow up to the enclosed letter that you received on 8 March 2025 from the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) regarding the Standing Committee on Finance's Budget Recommendations 429 and 430. The CCCC has not received a reply. Therefore, due to the urgency of the matter and in light of the Government's current preparations for the 2025 budget, I would like, once again, to highlight a few areas of specific concern.

Recommendation 429 would introduce a restrictive bias into charitable status, as noted in our March letter. It would impact all charitable organizations in the future whose purposes may not align with those of the current government. The proposed removal of the "privileged status of advancement of religion" in Recommendation 430, in addition to alienating more than two-thirds of Canadians who are religiously affiliated,<sup>1</sup> would also alter the well-established common law definition of charitable purpose, which stretches back over 400 years.<sup>2</sup> It would further send a disruptive signal to the charitable sector that the principles of charity legislation can be rescinded without adequate consultation, even before their impact on society is fully understood.

It is essential to underscore that both Recommendations 429 and 430, if pursued by the Government, would harm the charitable sector as a whole and, in particular, the millions of Canadians who rely on the affected organizations for support. The proposed changes would also create a void within the charitable sector, significantly increasing costs for the federal government and the Canadian taxpayer.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. 28 October 2021. *Religion in Canada, 2019* [Data visualization tool].  
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2021079-eng.pdf?st=LaYZPaH1/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Vancouver Society of Immigrant & Visible Minority Women v. Minister of National Revenue*, [1999] 1 SCR 10, paras, 127, 144 *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> Mike Wood Daly, "Why Religious Tax Exemptions Benefit All Canadians," *CARDUS* online, 12 November 2024,  
<https://www.cardus.ca/research/spirited-citizenship/reports/why-religious-tax-exemptions-benefit-all-canadians/>.

The CCCB joins a growing group of other large Catholic charities, including the Catholic Women's League of Canada, Development and Peace-Caritas Canada, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Canada, the Knights of Columbus of Canada, and the Catholic Civil Rights League, together with other organizations, such as the [Canadian Interfaith Conversation](#), [the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada](#), the [Christian Legal Fellowship](#), and [Imagine Canada](#). All are united in voicing strong opposition to the Recommendations 429 and 430, which are seen as undue ideological and partisan interference of a discriminatory nature within the charitable sector.

Any proposed structural changes to federal charity legislation should be preceded by serious consultation with the stakeholders and not simply based on a committee's recommendations. As president of the CCCB, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and staff members of the Department of Finance to discuss these concerns on behalf of the many Catholic charities that operate in Canada, serving all Canadians, regardless of religious affiliation.

Yours sincerely,



The Most Rev. William T. McGrattan  
Bishop of Calgary CCCB President

Cc: The Right Hon. Mark Carney, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada  
The Hon. Wayne Long, P.C., M.P., Secretary of State  
The Hon. Pierre Poilievre, P.C., M.P.  
Mr. Jagmeet Singh, M.P.  
Mr. Yves-François Blanchet, M.P.  
Ms. Elizabeth May, M.P.  
Mr. Ryan Turnbull, M.P.  
Mr. Jasraj Singh Hallan, M.P.  
Mr. Don Davies, M.P.  
Mr. Gabriel Ste-Marie, M.P.  
Mr. Peter Fonseca, M.P.