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Minister of Finance



Ministre des Finances

FEB 2 4 2009

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G5

Perrin Beatty  
President/CEO  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce  
360 Albert Street, Suite 420  
Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7

Dear Perrin,

Thank you for participating in the pre-budget consultations hosted by Member of Parliament, James Rajotte and taking the time to share your views on the government's fourth budget.

In light of the challenging economic situation and the importance of this year's budget, I found it particularly valuable to have James Rajotte and other Conservative Members of Parliament assist in conducting pre-budget consultations in Ottawa.

The meetings are in addition to the extensive consultations that have taken place across the country since early December. The Government has consulted with provinces and territories and has considered the views of private-sector economists, academic and business leaders, industry associations and thousands of Canadians who participated in on-line consultations. I have also sought advice from my Economic Advisory Council and opposition parties.

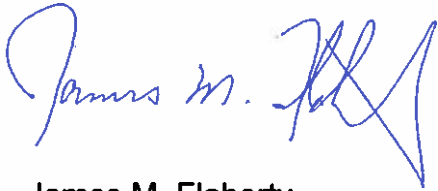
As you know, I tabled our government's fourth budget on January 27, 2009. For your information I have included a copy of *The Budget in Brief 2009*. As you will see, a number of the measures in the budget reflect recommendations made during our consultations. The government's economic stimulus plan comprises five main elements:

- Improving Access to Financing and Strengthening Canada's Financial System
- Action to Help Canadians and Stimulate Spending
- Action to Stimulate Housing Construction
- Immediate Action to Build Infrastructure
- Action to Support Businesses and Communities

Canada

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with James Rajotte and other Conservative Members of Parliament on such short notice and contributing to the pre-budget consultation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James M. Flaherty". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the middle initial "M." and the last name "Flaherty".

James M. Flaherty