

This review then is intended to improve the system while maintaining and improving the credibility of the majority of charitable organizations across the country that contribute so much to our society.

Some of the things that we are looking at in the review, because we have been asked quite specifically as to what we are looking at, is to look at ways and means to open up the reporting from the charitable organizations so that there cannot be the abuse by a few individuals within certain organizations at the expense of the majority of the others.

The other area that we are looking at is to make the system clearer and simpler, as well as the definitions and regulations. All of this is being done in consultation with the representatives from the sector and those consultations are ongoing today.

It is my hope and my wish that by this autumn we will have a discussion paper for the public to look at, hopefully with some recommendations that I could bring back to my cabinet colleagues, particularly the Minister of Finance and the Department of Finance so that if there are any amendments to the Income Tax Act that have to be put, we would be able to do so in consultation, obviously, with the department and with cabinet as a

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whole. The timing in that area is to look at the early part of next year.

I am very sensitive at the same time to the special problems facing charities which rely on volunteers and limited resources. I will personally ensure that these are fully taken into account in the course of the review. The aim of the review is to ensure that the administration of the tax law contributes to the effectiveness of the sector without increasing the paper burden on individual charities.

Finally, I wish to reassure charities that the government continues to be committed to a strong, charitable sector and the objectives inherent in the present tax measures. The review that I have initiated is directed toward providing a simpler, fairer and more effective administration of the income tax measures in place to assist charities. Improvements will be made for the benefit of all legitimate charitable organizations and for Canadian society as a whole.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The motion that the House do now adjourn is deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 6.19 p.m.