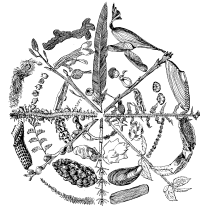


**LTA The Land
Of British**



**Trust Alliance
Columbia**

**204-338 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3
www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca 250-538-0112 fax 538-0172**

April 19, 2006

Honourable Minister James M. Flaherty
Department of Finance Canada
140 O'Connor Street
19th Floor, East Tower L'Esplanade Laurier
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Dear Honourable Minister Flaherty:

Re: Capital Gains Tax on Donations of Ecological Gifts by Canadians

We appreciate that you have invited the Canadian public to provide input to the next budget. We are the BC Alliance of land trusts with 82 members, 32 of which are charitable land trusts (conservancies) We note that in your election platform you stated that:

"A Conservative government will:

• Remove the capital gains tax on listed stocks donated to charities. Government should not penalize Canadians when they contribute to charities. Canadians who donate publicly traded shares to Canadian charities should not pay capital gains taxes on those donations."

The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia would like to offer strong support for this action and respectfully suggest that you also eliminate capital gains taxes on donations of Ecological Gifts. The federal Ecological Gifts Program has helped Canadian citizens donate hundreds of thousands of hectares of ecologically significant lands for protection. By removing the capital gains taxes from Ecogift donations, we would no longer be penalizing Canadians who want to help protect our environment through the donation of ecologically significant lands to charities.

On behalf of the Land Trusts working in British Columbia, thank you for considering this request. We believe that it is consistent with your government's election platform, and that this measure will be well received by Canadians.

Yours truly

Eileen Palmer, Chair

Cc: Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of the Environment
David McLaughlin, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister of Finance
Daniel Bernier, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister of Environment
Mark Cameron, Manager of Policy, Prime Minister's Office

Helping to steward, protect and restore B.C.'s natural and cultural diversity