



RAIC | IRAC

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada
Institut royal d'architecture du Canada

March 24, 2020

The Honourable Bill Morneau
Minister of Finance
Department of Finance Canada
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Hon. Bill Morneau,

This letter is in follow-up to the letter that we, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), sent to you on March 18, 2020. The RAIC a not-for-profit association that is the leading voice for excellence in the built environment in Canada. The RAIC is a national organization with over 5000 members across all provinces and territories.

Firstly, we commend the Government of Canada's leadership and overall response to this unprecedented crisis. The conviction to support Canadians through this crisis is clear to our organization.

On that note, we continue to advocate that not-for-profit associations have immediate access to the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which was announced by Prime Minister Trudeau last week.

As a not-for-profit association, the implications of cancelled events have already had a significant impact on the RAIC. To date, we have been working diligently to do our part to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 specifically to cancel the 2020 RAIC Conference on Architecture, which was scheduled to take place in Edmonton, Alberta from June 2-7, 2020.

Although we have been able to cancel this conference, the RAIC will suffer a significant loss of revenue for this event, not to mention the losses of our partners and sponsors related to the conference. These types of losses are not viable for a non-profit association—therefore financial assistance to combat and mitigate the impacts of the outbreak of COVID-19 is greatly needed to protect not-for-profit associations.

Secondly, many of the RAIC membership own—or work for—small, medium, and large businesses in the architecture and design sector. We urge that the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan be immediately accessible to these businesses in this time of uncertainty.

Finally, we urge the government to resume business as usual as quickly as possible in the architecture and construction sector. By continuing to support the normal operation of businesses you will support much needed economic activity and hope during this public health emergency. The architecture and construction sector depend on these jobs supported by the government and your leadership can keep people in this sector working.

We are here at your disposal to support the government and urge you to engage with us to address the needs of the architectural sector.



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Sincerely,
Mike Brennan
CEO
RAIC

CC Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Chair of Cabinet Committee on COVID-19
Response

Hon. Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement

Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages

Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade

Jeremy Broadhurst, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister

Elder Marques, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Finance

Rick Theis, Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister