



RAIC | IRAC

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

March 18, 2020

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

Dear Hon. Bill Morneau,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (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.

We are requesting that not-for-profit associations receive a portion of the financial support announced by the government to address the impacts of COVID-19.

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, with our main goal to cancel the 2020 RAIC Conference on Architecture, scheduled to take place in Edmonton, Alberta from June 2-7, 2020. At this time, we are experiencing significant difficulty to cancel this conference, primarily due to the enforcement of contracts by hotels and event venues. If these contracts are not cancelled without penalty, our association stands to lose over \$258,000 in penalties, not to mention the loss of revenue for the RAIC by not holding the event. These types of losses are not viable for a non-profit association and put us at risk of bankruptcy, loss of employment for 20 employees and the dissolution of an over 100-year-old organization, the only national non-profit association that represents architects and architecture in Canada.

Financial assistance to combat and mitigate the impacts of the outbreak of COVID-19 is greatly needed to protect not-for-profit associations. We urge the government to ensure not-for-profit associations have access to the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Response Fund.

Additionally, many of the RAIC membership own or work for small, medium, and large businesses in the architecture and design sector. We strongly recommend that economic relief be accessible to these businesses in this time of uncertainty.

The RAIC and its members are doing their part to take the aggressive measures needed during this public health emergency. We humbly request that the Government of Canada support us to do so via financial support and policies that reduce the significant burden of cancellation fees that we simply cannot afford.



RAIC | IRAC

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

Sincerely,

Mike Brennan
CEO
RAIC

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

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