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

March 31, 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 we, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), sent to you on March 24, 2020.

We applaud the Government of Canada for the announcement on March 25, 2020, to [increase the wage subsidy from 10% to 75%](#). To obtain a clearer picture of our members' experience during this crisis, we launched a COVID-19 Pulse Survey and have heard from hundreds of members thus far. Unsurprisingly, the primary theme identified is financial hardship during this crisis. Many have reported that they have been forced to resort to layoffs—actual and impending—with some indicating they are close to shutting their doors if they do not receive an injection of cash flow in the next few weeks.

We will share the results of our COVID-19 Pulse Survey in mid-April so that we better understand and more fully address the needs of the architectural sector.

Architects are a key service provider for critical infrastructure, and as such, it is imperative that businesses remain afloat so that they can support rebuilding and restructuring as soon as it is possible to do so safely. Like many other Canadian businesses, architects and firms have experienced a significant loss of revenue in March. Rapid access to funding is needed so that employers can continue to provide paycheques, rehire staff, protect jobs, increase cash flow, and prevent company shutdowns.

The RAIC and its members are doing their part to take the aggressive measures needed during this public health emergency. We are following social distancing guidelines and have transitioned to remote work.

The RAIC continues to be at your disposal to support the government and will assist in any way we can in implementing the Emergency Response Benefit.

About the RAIC

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.



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Sincerely,

John Brown
President

Mike Brennan
CEO

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

Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

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