Insert Date Here

[Insert MP’s Name Here]

Insert MP’s Position/Riding

Address

City, Province, Postal Code

Email address

**Subject: Request to Meet - Key Implications for [Insert your riding here], Federal Budget 2019, and ENVI Report #10 - *Preserving Canada’s Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow***

Dear [Insert MP’s name here]:

I, [Insert your name] on behalf of [Insert name of your organization] would like to request a meeting with you to discuss how Federal Budget 2019 can bridge the urgent gap in federal funding for historic places pending action on the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) Report # 10 - *Preserving Canada’s Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow*. This report is being met with great interest from heritage NGOs, volunteers, charities, professionals, provincial/territorial and municipal policymakers, and property owners who invest in or care for heritage places across Canada. Implementing the recommendations of this report would help save places such as [insert endangered place in your riding] which are threatened in our community.

In the course of the study, the Committee heard that historic places are more than just touchstones of history and identity: they are instrumental in building the economy of tomorrow, creating skilled, green jobs for young people, and growing the middle class. Further, as member of a party that has proposed or undertaken substantial initiatives on the environment and climate change, you will know that the renewal and re-use of buildings capitalizes on materials and energy already invested, reduces construction and demolition waste, and avoids the carbon and other environmental impacts associated with new development.

While we await the federal response to ENVI Report #10, the proposed funding recommendations for Federal Budget 2019 below will serve to bridge the urgent gap in federal funding, and demonstrate the economic leverage effect of historic places investments:

1. **Renewal and Expansion of Parks Canada’s National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places:**
   1. **$33 million** over 3 years in matching grant funding for National Historic Sites, Heritage Lighthouses, and Heritage Railway Stations – with an estimated leverage effect of 5 times the federal contribution;
   2. **$35 million** over 3 years to attract corporate investment and bring new productive uses to revenue-generating commercial heritage properties – with an estimated leverage effect of at least 5 times more in private investment, and the creation of an estimated 2000 jobs;
   3. **An additional multi-million dollar fund for heritage places of significance to Indigenous Peoples.** The Federal Government’s response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Call to Action 79 must not fail to include substantial funding to support the efforts of Indigenous Peoples to save and renew their heritage places, and commemorate their contributions to Canada’s history.
2. **Funding to create a transformative culture of philanthropy for historic places, to encourage public and corporate donations to heritage places that matter to Canadians, including Indigenous Peoples:**
   1. **$6 million** to build the capacity of charities and not-for-profit organizations to raise funds and forge corporate partnerships for community-led projects to renew surplus federal lighthouses, places of faith, cultural landscapes and other heritage places;
   2. **$2 million** for national crowdfunding competitions to spur community philanthropy for heritage places.

I would like to meet with you to discuss what you can do to implement these recommendations**, which will encourage investment in the revitalization of historic places (particularly tax-based incentives and grants/contributions), and fund the efforts of Indigenous peoples, charities, and not-for-profits to save and regenerate places of significance in this riding. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.**

Yours sincerely,

Your Name

Your Title

Your Organization