

**SAMPLE - Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2021 Federal Budget**

Please submit on organizational letterhead, if appropriate.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
Department of Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Minister of Middle Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance  
Department of Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

February \_\_, 2021

**Re: Federal Pre-Budget Consultations 2021 – Stimulus Funding for Canada’s Heritage Places**

Dear Ministers,

I am writing on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_(explain you or your organization’s involvement/interest in heritage places).

**Pre-Budget 2021 Recommendation: We recommend that the Government provide at least \$200 million in stimulus funding (e.g. tax credits or grants) to unlock billions of dollars in capital construction and other investments in heritage places across Canada. This funding would target the renewal, retrofitting and adaptive use of revenue-generating space, the creation of affordable housing and more; and would help nonprofits and charities renew cultural infrastructure and social purpose real estate. The heritage sector also supports providing funding for Indigenous heritage leadership to advance cultural heritage priorities that are of importance to Métis, Inuit, and First Nations Peoples in Canada.**

Our 2021 Federal Budget recommendations will capitalize on heritage projects across Canada and create new green jobs, contribute to reconciliation and climate change efforts, and contribute to community resiliency over the long term.

Why provide stimulus funding for heritage places? Because investments in heritage places are an ideal target for economic recovery and community infrastructure programs:

- Shovel-Ready Projects exist across Canada in urban, rural, and Indigenous heritage places;
- Projects at existing buildings create 21% more jobs than new construction, with less “leakage” out of the Canadian economy for foreign goods;
- Funding will leverage private sector investment and other financial instruments;
- Adaptive use and retrofits of existing buildings reduce GHG emissions and demolition waste, and capitalize on materials, energy, and sunk carbon already invested;
- Investments in their infrastructure will provide increased stability for the charitable, non-profit and tourism sectors; and
- Healthy and vibrant main streets and neighborhoods strengthen social cohesion and drive local economies.

**There are heritage places in our [choose one - riding/city/region] that urgently need this heritage stimulus funding:**

- Example 1 – one sentence description of place and project; another sentence describing, if possible, the estimated cost of the project and jobs created.
- Example 2 – additional example, if available

[Can't think of a heritage place in need near you? Check our growing list of [#ShovelReadyHeritage sites](#) for ideas.]

Why provide funding for Indigenous heritage leadership in Canada? We have seen the impact provincial-level Indigenous heritage leadership has had for the revitalization of Indigenous cultural heritage. There is now a pressing need for Canada-wide Indigenous heritage leadership that can similarly coordinate and advance cultural heritage priorities for Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples in Canada.

**What our recommendation will accomplish:**

The potential for stimulus investments targeting heritage buildings is vast: many billions of dollars in capital repair, energy retrofits and adaptive re-use could be generated at some of the 437,000 pre-1960 commercial and industrial properties; 1,000,000 pre-1960 apartment units; 27,000 places of faith; as well as thousands of institutional buildings in private and public ownership. Stimulus investments can leverage at least 5 times more in private investment, create new green jobs; renew, adapt and retrofit existing infrastructure; produce new revenue-generating space; create new affordable housing units and more.

There are compelling precedents for these federal stimulus measures. In the United States, Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives has distinguished itself as one of the nation's most successful and cost-effective community revitalization program. Since its launch in 1976, it has leveraged \$102.64 billion in private investment (5 times the value of the federal tax credits provided), created over 130,000 jobs each year (construction, manufacturing, services, retail trade, etc), preserved 45,383 historic properties, and enabled 172,416 affordable housing units. A comparable Canadian federal incentive program for commercial heritage properties (2005-2008) provided 20% of eligible project costs with a maximum grant of \$1 million, and yielded impressive results: federal contributions of \$14.95 million leveraged \$143.4 million in construction costs, created 1,465 person years of employment, and gave derelict heritage buildings vibrant new community uses.

Stimulating the reuse of heritage buildings would also play a key role to play in meeting Canada's 2030 GHG emission reduction targets. Investing in the rehabilitation of heritage buildings is a key component of the low carbon economy: building renewal and re-use capitalizes on materials and embedded carbon already invested, reduces construction and demolition waste, and avoids environmental impact associated with new development. Studies demonstrate that it takes from 10 to 80 years for a new "green" building to make up for the negative climate change impacts of its construction.

Directing federal stimulus to heritage places will reach beyond major cities and have immediate and measurable impacts on the economies of small town and rural Canada. Funding could flow without delay to projects large and small through existing mechanisms such as Regional Economic Development Agencies, the Cultural Spaces Canada Program and Parks Canada's National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places.

The heritage sector recognizes there is much to do to be part of a movement of Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. We recognize that places of significance to Indigenous Peoples are very much underrepresented and overlooked in current programs and funding sources in Canada – and further that conventional approaches to identifying, valuing, and protecting heritage places are not well-suited to Indigenous heritage places. There is a pressing need for funding for Indigenous heritage leadership to advocate for policies, funding and programs that support the full diversity of places that reflect Canada's peoples and cultures.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Your Name  
Organization  
Contact information