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April 25, 2022

Mr. John Williamson, M.P.
Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Williamson:

Thank you for your letter of April 4, 2022, regarding the status of the Government of Canada response of June 2021 about Recommendation 2 of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts' Report 8 (43rd Parliament, 2nd Session), *Request for Government Response to the 66th Report from the 42nd Parliament, 1st Session, Report 2, Conserving Federal Heritage Properties, of the 2018 Fall Reports of the Auditor General of Canada*, which states that testing and approval of the new evaluation criteria and designation process for federal heritage buildings were being completed in the spring and summer of 2021.

The new proposed evaluation criteria and designation process for federal heritage buildings, developed in collaboration with federal custodians, were tested in the spring and summer of 2021.

At the end of this period, it was necessary to extend the validation period in order to, among other things, address comments received from federal custodians, further refine the definitions of the new proposed criteria, develop explanatory notes and training for researchers and experts creating evaluation reports as well as guidance materials for evaluators responsible for completing evaluation rating, and, finally, further elaborate on the consultation and engagement protocol that was being developed as part of the new proposed evaluation process.

This extended validation period was necessary to ensure that the transition to the implementation of the new proposed designation process will be as efficient as possible.

It should be noted that the new proposed criteria to evaluate and designate federal heritage buildings is based on Parks Canada's efforts to put in place a more inclusive and sustainable framework for the designation and protection of Canada's historic places.

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Next for Parks Canada Agency is to initiate the ministerial approval of the new criteria which has a few steps. We anticipate that the approval will be completed by end of June 2022.

I trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RHallman".

Ron Hallman