

Dear Sir:

We are writing on behalf of the St Peter's Church, Cobourg, Ontario, Working Group on the repair and re-purposing of the Church. Our Church is a heritage building, dating to before Confederation, which urgently needs this funding to repair its roof, and to re-purpose the building in order to re-align itself with the needs of its local community. The estimated cost of this project is approximately three million dollars, and it is estimated that 25 to 30 jobs would be created, giving opportunities for specialist, professional, and trades employment.

We recommend that the Government provide at least \$200 million in stimulus funding to unlock billions of dollars in capital construction and other investments in shovel-ready heritage buildings 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.

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.

We feel certain that you are aware that the potential for stimulus investments targeting heritage buildings is vast and that they can leverage at least five 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.

You will know also that there are compelling precedents for these federal stimulus measures, as has been proved in Canada and the United States in the past few years.

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. It can also be used to support participation in national celebrations like Canada Historic

Places Day that generate awareness and encourage Canadians to explore special places virtually online, and visit historic places close to home when the doors re-open. In parallel, there is great potential to leverage corporate philanthropy and crowdfunding and generate public awareness using proven high-profile crowdfunding tools like This Place Matters.

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 the environmental impact associated with new development. Studies demonstrate that it takes from 10 to 80 years for even a new "green" building to make up for the negative climate change impacts of its construction.

We would be pleased to have the opportunity to discuss our recommendation with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Beauchamp, Chair, the Nuts & Bolts Working Group, St. Peter's Church, Cobourg, Ontario

St. Peter's Church, 240 College Street, Cobourg, ON, K9A 3V2

Contact: Howard Goodfellow, hgoodfellow@cogeco.ca, 1-416-722-0870

(sent by Patricia Rogerson, secretary to the Working Group)