

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Honourable Bill Morneau  
Minister of Finance  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

via email - [bill.morneau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:bill.morneau@parl.gc.ca)

Re: The federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Minister Morneau,

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) applauds the government for committing to the purchase of personal protective equipment for individuals most at risk of exposure while working and quick access to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.

The CSLA is a national non-profit organization representing more than 2,348 landscape architect members, 615 associate (or intern) members, and 669 student members from across Canada. Our members work in private and public practices and often in interdisciplinary teams. Together the members of the CSLA contribute more than \$1billion dollars to the GDP, and this economic activity has an estimated multiplier effect of 2.1 overall.

Landscape architects provide key services for important infrastructure and it will be of vital importance that landscape architects are able to resume business as quickly as possible to support rebuilding our economy. Our members are employed in a variety of models:

- as employees
- as sole proprietors
- as small, medium or large firm owners or partners

At this time, landscape architects in Canada face a number of hardships due to this pandemic, such as:

- financial hardship,
- loss of human resources,
- technological challenges,
- safe return to operations.

The CSLA asks that the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan benefits must be available to all landscape architects, regardless of their employment scenario. Without economic support, landscape architects and firms are at significant risk of job loss, inability to provide paychecks for employees, inability to rehire staff, inability to protect jobs and unable to prevent company shutdowns.

We urge the government to:

- make the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy available to all landscape architects, regardless of employment scenario, size of the firm, or practice,
- extend subsidy benefits to business owners who rely on dividend income which may not qualify for the wage subsidies and
- eliminate minimum payroll requirements for the Canada Emergency Business Account loan program.

The work of landscape architects is all around us and is concerned with urban design and planning, storm water management, site restoration, green infrastructure and spaces, parks and recreation and much more. Landscape architecture impacts public welfare in several important ways. The profession contributes to environmental and economic sustainability, public health and well-being, and builds community by creating beautiful spaces and efficient, functional environments.

We thank you for your consideration in this unprecedented time of pandemic.

Sincerely yours,



Glenn O'Connor, OALA, FCSLA, ASLA  
CSLA President

c.c. Wayne Easter, MP for Malpeque, PEI and Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance  
[wayne.easter@parl.gc.ca](mailto:wayne.easter@parl.gc.ca)

Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance - David Gagnon - [fina@parl.gc.ca](mailto:fina@parl.gc.ca)