

Minister of Finance



Ministre des Finances

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G5

AOUT 14 2018
AUG 14 2018

2018FIN475058

AUG 23 2018

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
Ms. Alissa Denham-Robinson
Chair, Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Ms. Denham-Robinson:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 15, 2018, which was referred by the Office of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, regarding the report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development entitled *Preserving Canada's Heritage: the Foundation for Tomorrow*. In particular, you indicate your support for the recommendation that the Government of Canada establish a tax credit for the restoration and preservation of buildings listed on the Canadian register of historic places. Please excuse the delay in replying.

Our Government recognizes the importance of preserving Canada's heritage properties. For example, Budget 2016 provided \$20 million over two years, starting in 2016-17, to support the Parks Canada Agency's National Historic Sites Cost Sharing Program. This program provides funding to non-federally owned or administered national historic sites to help protect nationally significant cultural infrastructure, and was expanded to include heritage lighthouses and railways.

Our Government also demonstrated its commitment to national parks, national marine conservation areas and national historic sites in Budget 2017 by providing up to \$364 million on a cash basis over two years, starting in 2018-19, to the Parks Canada Agency to continue its management of these places. Furthermore, Budget 2017 announced that a medium- and long-term plan is under development to ensure ongoing support to these highly valued areas.

Finally, I would highlight that the *Income Tax Act* already provides support for heritage properties owned by registered charities and other qualified donees through the Charitable Donations Tax Credit (CDTC). The CDTC provides an incentive for individuals and corporations to donate towards historic properties held by qualifying organizations with a mandate to preserve these properties for the benefit of the public.

On March 24, 2018, our Government tabled our response to the report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. As indicated in that response, we commit to carefully considering each of the report's recommendations, and to providing a recommendation by recommendation response by December 2018. You can find a copy of our Government's response on the Parliament of Canada website at www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/ENVI/report-10/response-8512-421-310.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Morneau", followed by a period.

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.