March 27, 2020

The Honourable Bill Morneau

Minister of Finance
Department of Finance Canada
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Subject: Request for Emergency Financial Relief

Dear Minister Morneau:

As a major employer in Canada, the parking industry engages an estimated 10,000 employees, many on the front line, along with numerous other direct and indirect positions. As a major contributor to the Canadian economy, the parking industry supports local communities in the management of on- and off-street parking, and contributes significantly to the transportation and logistics infrastructure, many of which are designated as essential services.

The parking industry is a hybrid between building management (an essential service) and hospitality. Facing unprecedented and devastating losses we still maintain our services with skeleton crews, as more than 85 percent of our workforce has been, or is being negatively impacted. Moreover, with reductions in parking demand, the nation’s parking industry is suffering in scope not unlike the hospitality sector, hotels and airlines.

While we must keep our doors open to the general public and essential services, the drastic reduction in cash flow due to unprecedented drops in demand due to mandated business closures, self-isolation and other necessary limitations, is severely impacting companies in our industry. Also, our connection with real estate involves financial commitments that can vary depending on the severity of the conditions. Amid challenges in meeting our payrolls, which represents a significant portion of our operating expenses and unprecedented layoffs, we respectfully request that the Federal Government, alongside its Provincial counterparts, consider the following:

1. Immediate relief in the form of deferred income and payroll taxes,
2. Deferred parking tax remittance,
3. Funding relief for Canadian-based equipment manufacturers and industry service providers that support the industry, and
4. Change in legislation to categorize the COVID-19 pandemic as a Force Majeure condition.

On behalf of the Parking Industry, I thank you for your consideration during these difficult and unsettling times. Our thoughts are with our members and their customers who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the COVID-19 situation evolves, we will continue with our duties as stakeholders in the communities we serve to the best of our abilities, and sincerely hope you can assist our industry with the above critical items.

Sincerely,

The Canadian Parking Association

Carole Whitehorne
Executive Director
About Canadian Parking Association
The Canadian Parking Association is voice of the Canadian parking industry and is an essential component of various communities in Canada. The CPA provides leadership to its members from municipal, airport, hospital, university/college, private operators, mobility experts, consultants and suppliers, including current and relevant research, industry-specific training programs, education and networking for a unique service that is pivotal in their daily operations.

Copy to:  Hon. Chrystia Freeland Deputy Prime Minister, DPM-VM@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca
Hon. Melanie Joly Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, ED.minister-ministre.DE@canada.ca
Hon. Mary Ng Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Mary.Ng@international.gc.ca
Mr. Jeremy Broadhurst Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister, jeremy.broadhurst@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca
Mr. Elder Marques Chief of Staff to the Minister of Finance, elder.marques@canada.ca
Mr. Rick Theis Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister, rick.theis@pmo-cpm.gc.ca