[Insert your organization’s logo]

Name May 4, 2021

Title

Address 1

Address 2

Dear [MP name],

IDA Canada (a national coalition of the International Downtown Association) wrote a document that provides commentary on the recently introduced federal budget [[*view IDA Canada Commentary on Proposed Federal Budget 2021* document](https://downtown.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/IDA-Canada-Commentary-Budget-2021_042921.pdf)]. IDA Canada works with, and for, 500+ Business Improvement Associations (BIAs/SDCs) across Canada, and as such, is very aware of the challenges which businesses have all coped with for more than a year. In the document, IDA Canada identifies the three recommendations it made to the government in its pre-budget submission and provides a quick summary and commentary about those elements of the budget relevant to those recommendations.

Like IDA Canada, we are thankful for the steps which government is taking to eliminate COVID and we appreciate some of the steps proposed within the budget for societal recovery from the pandemic. We are, however, of one mind in thinking that there are program details that remain to be worked out. We would like to offer our services to you and members of the civil service to review and discuss such details.

We would like to quickly highlight for you the three recommendations of IDA Canada and how they apply to us.

**Recommendation 1:**That the Federal Government allocate funding which will revitalize and reinvigorate downtowns and main streets, focusing on the functionality and efficiencies of the ground-floor/street interface and interior modifications required to ensure viability for business and property owners. Funds should also be made available for the creation and redesign of public spaces designed to attract people back to downtowns and main streets.

**Possible Local Action:** In the case of extremely hard-hit downtowns or main streets such as ours, [please insert organization name] can provide valuable input to our Regional Development Corporation [please insert name] and help formulate guidelines which will be most effective in bringing about full recovery and a return to vitality. We will be contacting the [RDC: insert name] to emphasize the importance of [please insert the specific actions/initiatives that you think will be most important to your businesses and community] but would appreciate your written support in doing so.

**Recommendation 2:**  That the Federal Government fund capital projects that help with the creation of 'complete streets' which accommodate the changing demands and standards created by COVID.

**Possible Local Action.**Please confer with local interests – public and private sector – including our organization, as we collectively already have ideas, plans and projects which are not only designed for greater mobility, but will result in heightened investment in [please insert your district’s name].  We will have one chance to do this right and we would like to help you lever and mobilize the resources which will do the most for our community.

**Recommendation 3:** That the Federal Government champion entrepreneurship and develop a pilot program for BIAs to create local, specific sector training programs/grants in partnership with colleges, universities, and the private sector.

**Possible Local Action:** The parameters for successful entrepreneurship have in some respects been turned on their head because of the pandemic. We have the contacts within our business community to identify these changes and what programs must be developed to re-educate existing entrepreneurs, but also train the entrepreneurs of the post-pandemic.  Let us work with you and [insert the names of those local institutions that you have worked with or could work with to develop curricula] to build the bridge to tomorrow.

We would appreciate meeting with you [insert virtually or in person...depending on local circumstances!] to discuss more of these details.  In the meantime, we invite you to read IDA’s Canada *Recovery with Resilience* ([EN](https://downtown.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/IDACanada20_UrbanAgenda_EN_20201201-FINAL.pdf) | [FR](https://downtown.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/IDACanada20_UrbanAgenda_FR_20201201-FINAL.pdf)) which is the framework for the IDA Canada budget submission.

Sincerely,

[your name]

CC: