



March 2, 2021

Hon. Joyce Murray, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Digital Government  
90 Elgin Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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Sent by email to: [Digitalgov.min.gouvnumerique@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:Digitalgov.min.gouvnumerique@tbs-sct.gc.ca)

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of businesses of all sizes across the country, we continue to appreciate your government's ongoing engagement with the private sector as Canadians weather the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

We are writing to you today to request that the government resist the urge to develop new non-essential regulations that will require extensive engagement from the private sector and take away from its ability to focus on the health and safety of employees, contractors and the communities in which they do business. For regulations currently being debated or published in the Canada Gazette, we request that new non-essential requirements are deferred by a minimum of two years or until the pandemic has subsided.

In Minister Duclos' response to our letter from April of last year, he stated that TBS officials had asked federal departments and agencies to demonstrate flexibility while companies strive to meet their obligations under existing regulations. Despite these efforts many of our members report that they are still facing significant challenges and require flexibility and additional regulatory relief.

While we recognize that the decision to provide regulatory relief rests with individual regulators, we encourage the Secretary of the Treasury Board to once again ask federal departments and agencies to apply a balanced and flexible approach to administering and enforcing their respective regulatory requirements.

In addition to adjusting the government's regulatory program as a result of the pandemic, the current circumstances also provide an opportunity to review the regulatory process to ensure businesses can be competitive in the new and still evolving business environment. We

recommend that the government reconvene the External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness, which has not met since July 2019. Doing so would enable a dialogue with industry to begin to identify solutions for improving our regulatory competitiveness.

Finally, to address the regulatory burden associated with the enactment of new legislation, we urge the Governor-in-Council to fix the date for the coming into force of such legislation to a date well beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you again for all of your efforts in support of Canadian businesses during this challenging period. Should you require additional information about any items referenced in this letter, we would be pleased to assist in any way.

Sincerely,



Hon. Perrin Beatty, P.C., O.C.  
President & CEO  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce



Tabatha Bull  
President & CEO  
Canadian Council for Aboriginal  
Business



Goldy Hyder  
President & CEO  
Business Council of Canada



Diane Brisebois  
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