

Minister of Infrastructure
and Communities



Ministre de l'Infrastructure
et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

Mr. Paul-Émile Cloutier
President and Chief Executive Officer
HealthcareCAN
100 – 17 York Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5S7

Dear Mr. Cloutier:

Thank you for your letter of May 19, 2020, regarding healthcare funding opportunities under the new COVID stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

The Government of Canada is focused on overcoming the greatest health crisis of our time. It has taken strong and quick action to stabilize our economy and support communities across Canada, while protecting the health and safety of all Canadians.

Infrastructure Canada is working with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts, Indigenous leaders and municipalities to move forward on meeting immediate infrastructure needs, what can be rolled out in the short term to support jobs, and how we will restart our economy as quickly as possible while respecting public safety guidelines. The Department is also continuing to accelerate project funding approvals that create jobs and improve the quality of life for Canadians across the country, and is working diligently to process reimbursement of claims received from its partners so that they will have the funds they need to continue moving projects forward and employing Canadians.

As you noted in your letter and previously discussed with my office, the Government of Canada will soon introduce changes to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. This is an existing program delivered in partnership with provinces and territories, under which provinces and territories propose specific projects for federal funding. The Government of Canada will set aside up to ten percent of the existing \$33.5 billion program for use in a new COVID-19 Resilience Stream. Provinces and territories will be allowed to choose whether or not they wish to opt in to this stream.

...2

The specifics of the changes being introduced to the program are still being finalized. As you noted, we anticipate this will include opportunities for new projects in the healthcare sector, an area not typically funded by Infrastructure Canada. Such opportunities could include, for example, retrofitting healthcare facilities to support physical distancing. Further information on the proposed new stream will be provided on the Infrastructure Canada website (www.infrastructure.gc.ca) in the very near future.

Together, we will work to ensure that infrastructure plays a vital role in promoting economic growth and job creation, and improving our quality of life in the coming months and years.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities