

President
of the Treasury Board



Président
du Conseil du Trésor

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0R5

APR 02 2020

Mr. John Dillon
Senior VP
Policy and Corporate Counsel of the Business Council of Canada

john.dillon@thebusinesscouncil.ca

Dear Mr. Dillon:

Thank you for your letter, on behalf of various industry associations, on March 20, 2020, regarding federal, provincial and territorial regulatory compliance challenges presented by COVID-19.

To start, I want to thank the industry associations and their members for their attention and commitment to the new protocols put in place to keep employees, our communities, and Canadians healthy during the outbreak of COVID-19. I recognize that the prioritization of the public health response has posed significant challenges to achieving regulatory compliance during this time.

The Government of Canada is taking immediate, significant and decisive action to help Canadians and Canadian businesses facing hardship as a result of the outbreak. All of us are working diligently to respond to the public health crisis and uphold Canada's economy in a comprehensive and collaborative manner.

Recognizing the challenges that businesses will face in complying with a range of federal regulations, a common sense approach, balanced against risk will be needed. For example, business employees may not be able to report to work to carry out, among other duties, certain compliance activities. And, while the Government of Canada's goal is always a consistent approach in the application of regulations to achieve the desired outcomes, there may be instances where flexibility in this area will be required.

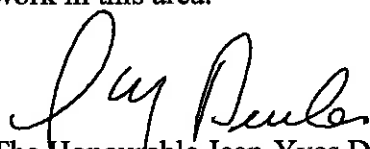
To address regulatory challenges, TBS is asking that federal departments and agencies consider demonstrating flexibility in developing, applying, and enforcing regulations, within their specific contexts, in consideration of the risk to the health, safety and security of Canadians and the environment. As departments and agencies are accountable for regulations within their respective areas, they are working to find opportunities where, based on risk, regulatory enforcement could be adjusted in consideration of circumstances, under their existing legal or regulatory frameworks.

Canada

In considering flexibility, TBS is also encouraging departments and agencies to coordinate with their provincial and territorial counterparts, as well as horizontally with other regulators. We remain committed to providing transparent and timely communication to stakeholders during this time. Departments and agencies will continue to actively convey information to industry stakeholders as we collectively progress through this work.

Our government continues to listen to business leaders to ensure we are helping businesses and entrepreneurs through this extraordinary time.

Thank you again for bringing these regulatory challenges to my attention and for your continued work in this area.



The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, P.C., M.P.
President of the Treasury Board

Cc:

The Hon. Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
The Hon. Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier
The Hon. Scott Fielding, Minister of Finance
The Hon. Ernie Steeves, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board
The Hon. Karen Lynn Casey, Minister of Finance
The Hon. Tom Osborn, Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board
The Hon. George Hicks, Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Financial Management Board
The Hon. Caroline Wawzonek, Minister of Finance
The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, President of the Treasury Board
The Hon. Darlene Compton, Minister of Finance
The Hon. Christian Dube, Minister Responsible for Government Administration
The Hon. Donna Harpaeur, Minister of Finance
Premier Sandy Silver, Minister of Finance
The Hon. Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources
The Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
The Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
The Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health
The Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport
The Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance
The Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade
The Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada