

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

December 10, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

Canada's tourism sector is united in its concern about the future of the International Convention Attraction Fund (ICAF). Budget 2025 did not renew the program, which expires in March 2026. This \$10 million annual investment delivers a 22-to-1 return and advances your trade diversification and competitiveness objectives.

Your Budget 2025 vision aims to catalyze \$1 trillion in investment over five years by focusing "government spending where it delivers the highest return." ICAF exemplifies this approach. International conferences are being planned now for 2028, 2029, and beyond.

However, without ICAF's renewal, Canadian cities will be unable to compete with international destinations that offer millions in financial support for these bids. Each lost opportunity represents foregone economic activity and tax revenue. It also means Canadian researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders lose the chance to connect with global peers and showcase Canadian innovation. According to Destination Canada, ICAF has committed \$30.5 million since launched, winning 87 events projected to generate \$649.8 million in direct economic impact and \$44.8 million in federal tax revenue. The program was originally projected to only generate \$174 million.

Just as "Own the Podium" helps Canadian athletes win Olympic gold, ICAF helps Canadian cities win high-value international gatherings of global leaders in advanced manufacturing, AI, life sciences, finance and insurance, natural resources, and agribusiness. These are the sectors critical to reducing Canada's reliance on a single trade partner and building the strongest economy in the G7.

We are asking you to commit \$10 million annually for four years to renew the International Convention Attraction Fund. This strategic investment exemplifies the crowding in approach central to Budget 2025—public dollars that mobilize multiples of private sector activity. ICAF will catalyze hundreds of millions in private investment, protect thousands of jobs, and strengthen Canada's competitive position in the global business events market. This is precisely the type of high-return, productivity-enhancing investment your government has prioritized.

Please confirm your support and renew the International Convention Attraction Fund.

Sincerely,


Sébastien Benedict
President & CEO
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of Canada


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President & CEO
Hotel Association of Canada


Minto Schneider
Chair
Meetings Mean Business Canada



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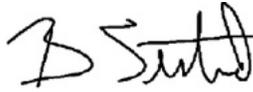
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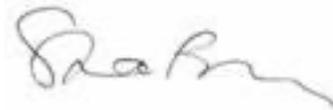
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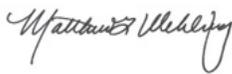
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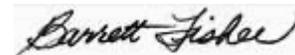
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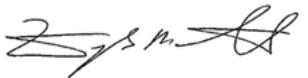
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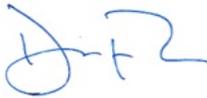
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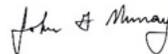
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Janice Matthews
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John G Murray
President & CEO
Sonesta Hotels & Resorts

Le très honorable Mark Carney, C.P., député
Cabinet du premier ministre
80, rue Wellington
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A2

Le 10 décembre 2025

Monsieur le Premier ministre Carney,

Le secteur touristique du Canada est unanime dans sa préoccupation quant à l'avenir du Fonds d'attraction de congrès internationaux (FACI). Le budget 2025 n'a pas renouvelé le programme, qui expire en mars 2026. Cet investissement annuel de 10 millions de dollars génère un rendement de 22 pour 1 et contribue à la réalisation de vos objectifs en matière de diversification commerciale et de compétitivité.

Votre vision budgétaire pour 2025 vise à catalyser 1 billion de dollars d'investissements sur cinq ans en concentrant « les dépenses publiques là où elles génèrent le rendement le plus élevé ». Le FACI est un exemple parfait de cette approche. À l'heure actuelle, des conférences internationales sont en cours de planification pour 2028, 2029, et au-delà.

En revanche, sans le renouvellement du FACI, plusieurs villes canadiennes ne pourront pas rivaliser avec les destinations internationales qui offrent des millions de dollars en soutien financier pour préparer ces candidatures. Chaque occasion manquée représente une perte d'activité économique et de recettes fiscales pour le Canada. Cela se traduit aussi par une perte d'opportunités pour les chefs de file de l'industrie, les entrepreneurs et les chercheurs canadiens de se faire connaître auprès de leurs homologues du monde entier et de mettre en valeur l'innovation canadienne.

Selon Destination Canada, les engagements financiers pris dans le cadre du FACI depuis son lancement s'élèvent à 30,5 millions de dollars, ce qui a permis d'attirer 87 événements qui devraient générer 649,8 millions de dollars en retombées économiques directes et 44,8 millions de dollars en recettes fiscales fédérales. Rappelons qu'à l'origine, le programme ne devait générer que 174 millions de dollars.

À l'instar du programme « À nous le podium », qui aide les athlètes canadiens à remporter des médailles d'or olympiques, le FACI aide les villes canadiennes à accueillir des rassemblements internationaux de grande valeur, réunissant des leaders mondiaux dans les domaines de la fabrication de pointe, de l'intelligence artificielle, des sciences de la vie, de la finance et de l'assurance, des ressources naturelles et de l'agroalimentaire. Tous ces secteurs sont essentiels pour réduire la dépendance du Canada à l'égard d'un seul partenaire commercial et pour bâtir l'économie la plus forte du G7.

Nous vous demandons de vous engager à verser 10 millions de dollars par an pendant une période de quatre ans afin de renouveler le Fonds d'attraction de congrès internationaux. Cet investissement stratégique illustre parfaitement l'approche d'attraction qui est au cœur du budget 2025, à savoir l'utilisation de fonds publics pour mobiliser un grand nombre d'activités du secteur privé. Le FACI permettra de catalyser des centaines de millions de dollars d'investissements privés, de protéger des milliers d'emplois et de renforcer la position concurrentielle du Canada sur le marché international des événements d'affaires. Il s'agit précisément du type d'investissement à haut rendement susceptible de favoriser la productivité que votre gouvernement a jugé prioritaire.

Nous vous invitons à confirmer votre soutien et à renouveler le Fonds d'attraction de congrès internationaux.

Cordialement,



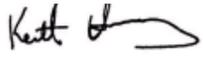
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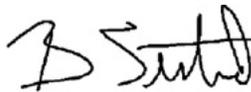
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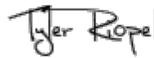
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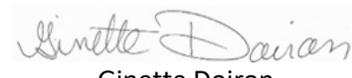
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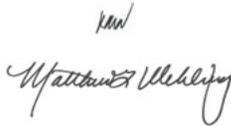
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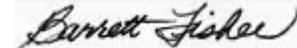
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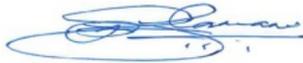
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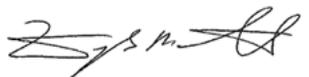
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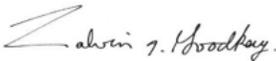
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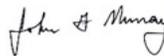
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