

March 23, 2020

Hon. Bill Morneau
Minister of Finance
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Sent via email: bill.morneau@canada.ca

Dear Minister Morneau:

On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers of Canada (NMMA Canada) and the entire recreational boating industry, we are writing with respect to funding to support the tourism and recreation sectors impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. We appreciate the decisive steps taken by your government to date – including \$29 billion in targeted financial aid to Canadians and businesses – and ask that you consider further measures to protect employees, support small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), and allow manufacturers to keep investing in the Canadian economy.

The recreational boating industry supports 75,000 direct and indirect Canadian jobs and more than 5,000 businesses. We also form part of Canada's broader outdoor economy – camping and recreational vehicles (RVs), sportfishing, snowmobiling, and more – which contributes an estimated \$24.6 billion in economic activity each year, generating an estimated 472,713 direct jobs, \$7.1 billion in taxes and \$52.1 billion in total revenues.

While all industries are no doubt being affected by COVID-19, the tourism and hospitality sectors face a particularly acute threat from mandatory closures and social distancing measures being imposed by municipal, provincial, and federal authorities. These steps are necessary, and we fully support the advice of medical experts in this regard. However, we are also very concerned about the unavoidable economic impact and/or job losses at dealerships, local marinas, service shops, restaurants and other businesses who depend on recreational boaters across Canada.

Canadian boaters enjoy and travel along the waterways boosting tourism and spend about \$400 for every trip; Canadian and foreign visitors spent \$7.4 billion dollars (2014 data) boating. Businesses like marinas, tourism operators and hotels on the water rely on boaters for their business. As well, boat dealers are entering the most important time of year and COVID-19 has already had a dramatic effect on sales – for example, through the cancellation of boat shows and other trade events. Annual meetings and events like boat shows contribute millions of dollars to local economies and draw-in much needed tourism traffic across Canada.

To aid the tens of thousands of workers in the outdoor economy affected by this pandemic, we would urge you to enact the following policy recommendations:

- Provide financial assistance for associations, non-profits, and other tax-exempt organizations that will be impacted by event cancellations resulting from COVID-19;



- Echoing the advice of the Canadian Manufacturing Coalition, put an immediate moratorium on the remittance of payroll, property, sales and income taxes by individuals and businesses;
- Reduce red tape to give employers expedited access to Records of Employment (ROEs) for laid-off workers so they can claim benefits quicker;
- Ensure that, in light of recent Canada-US border restrictions, recreational boats and other marine products can continue being transported across the border by marine manufacturers and dealers; and
- Continue working with Canadian banks to provide more flexibility to businesses – particularly SMEs – on mortgage payments and commercial debt.

Thank you once again for your time and attention, we appreciate all your support.

Sincerely,

Sara Anghel, President
NMMA Canada

Rick Layzell, CEO
Boating Ontario

Bruce Hayne, Executive Director
Boating BC

Alain Roy, Executive Director
Nautisme Québec

Patricia Nelder, Executive Director
Boating Atlantic

Jim Flood, Treasurer
Mid-Canada Marine Dealers Association