

## INDUSTRY: CRITICAL PARTNERS FOR A GREEN RECOVERY

Our members represent a significant portion of Canada's prosperous manufacturing and service sectors, and we dedicate our lives to the success of the industry and its skilled workforce. With the entire nation focused on COVID-19 recovery, our goals are no different. However, the full recovery of the skilled trades in a post-COVID world requires the aid of the Canadian Government if we are to establish a green and stable economy. If the Canadian Government is truly committed to economic recovery, it must start with the workers ensuring the functionality of our nation's businesses and services - the industry we represent maintains the foundation of Canada's economy and requires that our needs are met before other sectors can thrive. We ask that you review our needs, as we firmly believe the government's goals for a post-COVID recovery is aligned with the growth and sustainability of businesses in our industry.

The success and speed of Canada's economic recovery will depend on the overall health of incumbent firms. That is especially true in the construction sector, where investments in energy efficient infrastructure could help to spur a clean, green recovery. Construction businesses, especially those in the mechanical trades, are also navigating a decline in available skilled labour. We need training and apprenticeships, but we also need healthy companies and available projects to provide them with on-the-job experience and hours to qualify as tradespeople. Employers should be supported to bring on more apprentices and Employment Insurance should be more flexible to navigate so apprentices are encouraged to complete their training.

Our industry supports smart investments and low-cost regulatory modernization as the path forward. Through consultation with our stakeholders, alongside the Ministries of Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, and Environment and Climate Change Canada, we have identified the following priorities that are necessary for our industry to prosper.

# INDUSTRY PRIORITIES

## 1. Modernize Building and Equipment Codes

- Modern, environmentally friendly infrastructure and equipment will increase efficiency and reduce cost to consumers, kick-starting the economy
- Removal of outdated codes, alongside investment in the sector will permit implementation and use of newer technology
- Up-to-date products limit waste and contaminants into the environment
  - Addressing energy efficiency of materials and bolstering recycling infrastructure will pave a sustainable future
- Redesigning the code system will permit construction resilient to future climate events through modern modeling technology

## 2. Investment into Skilled Trades

- With a growing Canada comes a growing need for skilled trades by 2030
  - Without investment and promotion, we will face a desperate workforce shortage
  - Without adequate skilled labourers Canada will be unable to meet its environmental goals due to lack of efficiency

## 3. Addressing Regulations Preventing a Green Recovery

- Expansive eligibility and incentives for retrofitting older buildings will be a significant move towards COVID recovery and climate targets
  - Adapting existing infrastructure is an economically viable method to reduce strain on services such as healthcare
    - Permitting seniors to be mobile within their homes, delivery of essential goods without human interaction will help rebuild a post-COVID world
- Better efficiency standards aligning with BuildSmart and the proposed Resiliguide<sup>1</sup> guidelines
  - Residential windows, space and water heating as the primary concerns for energy waste and consumption
  - Approximately 2.8 million Canadians live in “Climate Poverty” and are unable to afford energy efficient or green technologies<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Final Report from the Task Force for a Resilient Recovery, 2020, 11

<sup>2</sup> Final Report from the Task Force for a Resilient Recovery, 2020, 10