

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

February 22, 2021

Mr. Ralph Suppa, CAE
President and General Manager
Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating
rob@impactcanada.com

Ms. Tania Johnston
Chief Executive Officer
Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada
rob@impactcanada.com

Dear Mr. Suppa and Ms. Johnston:

The Prime Minister's Office has forwarded to me a copy of your correspondence of October 5, 2020, regarding the important role of the plumbing, heating, and mechanical industry in supporting the Government's climate targets. Addressing the challenges that your members face in enhancing efficiency in Canada's buildings and homes, particularly related to building code alignment, equipment standards, and training and deploying the necessary skilled workers, is an important part of the transition to the low-carbon economy.

This is an unprecedented time as the world tries to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and limit its human and economic impacts. All orders of government are working together to ensure Canadians have the vital protection and support they need, when and where they need it.

At the same time, climate change remains one of the most significant global issues. Reducing energy use in the built environment will require significant improvements in the way we heat our buildings and homes. In 2018, Canadian energy ministers endorsed the market transformation roadmap for energy-efficient equipment in the building sector. This process includes three subject-matter expert teams that are working to assess activities in the space heating, water heating, and fenestration sectors. We are grateful to have Mr. Dave Hammond from the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating's Board of Directors co-chairing the expert team on water heating and providing guidance and expertise on this important work. These teams will help to remove market barriers and realize new opportunities in energy efficiency improvements.

Canada

Natural Resources Canada is continuing to engage with partners to address building codes and standards that are misaligned with high efficiency products and identify ways to provide customers with more efficient products. The next model energy codes for new homes and buildings are expected to be published in 2021 and have a 10–15% performance improvement over the 2017 model codes. The 2020 model energy codes are a major milestone and will include “net-zero energy ready” step codes for jurisdictions to adopt by 2030. Work is also underway to develop the first model code for existing buildings and homes that will guide efficiency improvements.

Natural Resources Canada also continues to support research, development and demonstration for energy efficiency equipment. In May 2020, Natural Resources Canada launched a National Expression of Interest for cold-climate heat pump field studies to prove reliable heating performance in different climates and regions within Canada. The findings will provide a better understanding of different regional considerations and circumstances for cold climate heat pumps, including equipment performance, homeowner satisfaction, and contractor installation experience.

To implement these improvements and changes, we need skilled and trained professionals. On December 11, 2020, the Government released an enhanced climate plan for Canada, A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, which, among other things, seeks to make the places Canadians live and gather more affordable by cutting energy waste. This includes \$2.6 billion over seven years for home renovations through 700,000 grants of as much as \$5,000, up to one million free home energy-efficient assessments, and support to recruit and train EnerGuide energy advisors to meet increased demand.

As you noted in your correspondence, the transition will take hard work from all of us. The plumbing, heating, and mechanical industry is an integral part of energy efficiency improvement and the transition to the low-carbon economy.

I appreciate your input, and I trust that you are safe and healthy during this unprecedented period.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seamus O'Regan Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan Jr., P.C., M.P.