

May 16, 2024

The Honourable Anita Anand
President of the Treasury Board,
90 Elgin Street, 8th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0R5
Via email

Dear Minister Anand,

On behalf of NAIOP chapters across Canada, we are writing to voice our strong support for your decision to require federal public servants to return to their offices for a minimum of three days per week with executive level public servants returning to their offices for four days per week effective September 9. This hybrid model is consistent with the approach we are seeing across Canada in the private sector and is a positive first step towards returning to a more effective and collaborative work model that is essential to restoring vibrancy to our city centres.

NAIOP's Canada chapters represent developers, owners and related professionals in office, industrial, retail and mixed-use real estate across the country. As major employers and office landlords, we recognize the importance of in-person presence at the workplace.

Getting workers back to the office is critical for productivity and effectively integrating younger employees with more senior ones as the Federal Public Service scales with population growth. Remote work makes in-person training and mentorship virtually impossible. Organizations need people together to successfully grow cohesive teams. Office environments foster spontaneous collaboration and innovation, enhancing productivity and employee engagement. Returning to the office also helps address the challenges of isolation and work-life balance that many remote workers face, contributing to overall well-being and professional development.

As landlords across Canada, we see first-hand the impact that empty downtowns are having on the financial health of our major cities and our economy as a whole. Businesses – small and large – that depend on in-person traffic are suffering, and, in some cases, failing; transit systems that bring people to the heart of our cities are facing perilous drops in revenue; fewer eyes on the street are causing issues with safety; and declining downtown property values are putting at risk much-needed property tax revenue for municipalities across the country.

As you and the federal government move forward with your plan to have workers return to the office, our chapters and members would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your colleagues to help make the transition as smooth as possible. As landlords and employers, we

want to play a positive role in returning the vibrant activity to our city cores that bring economic growth to our country.

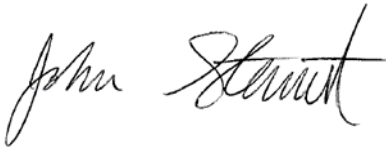
Sincerely,



Chris Ollenberger
NAIOP Calgary



Kris Augustson
NAIOP Edmonton



John Stewart
NAIOP Greater Toronto



Derick Fluker
NAIOP Vancouver

cc:

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia
His Worship, Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor of Ottawa
Her Worship, Olivia Chow, Mayor of Toronto
Her Worship, Jyoti Gondek, Mayor of Calgary
His Worship, Amarjeet Sohi, Mayor of Edmonton
His Worship, Ken Sim, Mayor of Vancouver