



November 20, 2020

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.  
Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and Minister of Finance  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
K1A 0A6

Dear Deputy Prime Minister:

**Re: Fall 2020 Economic Update policy recommendations**

Since March 2020, faced with the growing challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and its dedicated volunteers have been working hard to support our community.

As part of our efforts we stay in constant contact with our community from coast to coast to assess the challenges they are facing.

Many cultural, arts, heritage, educational and not-for-profit organizations and Churches throughout Canada and in our community are suffering the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and need the support of the Government of Canada during this difficult time.

Heritage language schools and community cultural organizations have been particularly hard-hit by the pandemic. Community cultural organizations such as dance, music, visual arts groups and others rely on events, which have been cancelled, to raise revenue to fund their operations. Government support programs have focused on support for the professional arts community, leaving community and amateur organizations ineligible for support.

Additionally, community charitable organizations have seen a decrease in donations as Canadians face increased economic uncertainty. Community organizations that own or control property and rely on rents for revenue are dealing with the inability of their renters to make payments and will have difficulty paying property tax and covering overhead costs (maintenance, utilities, etc.)

As the Department of Finance and the Government of Canada prepare the Fall 2020 Economic Update, the UCC makes the following policy recommendations that we

believe will assist in mitigating the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic for ethnocultural community organizations and Churches:

- 1. Develop government funding opportunities for which non-professional and community-based arts, cultural, music and dance groups will be eligible as part of the Government's response to mitigating the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- 2. Renew the formerly available federal tax credit for community-based heritage language instruction.**
- 3. Introduce an immediate enhancement of the charitable donation tax credit and work with municipalities to provide relief for not-for-profits and charities for property tax payments.**

The UCC is available to meet (virtually) with you or your staff at your convenience to discuss these issues in greater detail.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or UCC CEO Ihor Michalchysyn at [ihor@ucc.ca](mailto:ihor@ucc.ca) or 613-232-8822.

Yours truly,  
**UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS**



Alexandra Chyczij  
National President