March 28, 2019

Mr. Kevin Pittman, Clerk – Senate Special Committee on the Charitable Sector
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A4

Dear Mr. Pittman,

In recent discussions with Senator Rob Black, it was suggested that we – the National Trust for Canada and our partner Faith & the Common Good – should contact you regarding the relevance of our partnership to the mandate of your Committee.

As you will see from the attached background document, we are collaborating to address the impact on communities of the pending closure of thousands of places of faith across the country. Our focus is very much on promoting the retention of these buildings for community uses – regardless of future ownership or whether any religious practices remains.

We believe this issue is relevant to your Committee’s work, not only because it will involve the potential disposal in the next decade of over 9,000 buildings by their charitable owners (the faith groups), but because the impact of these closures will be felt by the thousands of charitable and non-profit organizations that are housed in these buildings in neighbourhoods across the country.

If your Committee members wish to receive more information on our partnership’s findings to date, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for the important work that you and your committee have been leading over the past year to support the charitable and non-profit sectors.

Sincerely,

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