ICFMA
INSULATING CONCRETE FORMS
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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November 5, 2026

Ms. Stephanie Tanton
Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Response Fund
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5

Dear Ms. Tanton:

**Re: Budget 2026 and the Strategic Response Fund stream for modern methods of construction**

I am writing to introduce the Insulating Concrete Forms Manufacturers Association (ICFMA) and to ask for a short meeting with you, or with the official who will lead the design of the new modern methods of construction stream announced in Budget 2026.

ICFMA represents the companies that manufacture insulating concrete forms (ICF) in Canada and the United States. ICF are interlocking blocks of expanded polystyrene, made in a factory and stacked on site, then reinforced with steel and filled with concrete. The result is an insulated, reinforced concrete wall built in one step. Our members' products go into houses, apartment buildings, schools and commercial buildings across the country.

Budget 2026 proposes $300 million over three years, starting in 2028-29, and $200 million in future years, for the Strategic Response Fund to build and expand industrial capacity for modern methods of construction (Chapter 3, page 203). It is the first federal program aimed squarely at the factories that make building systems, and we welcome it.

The budget does not define modern methods of construction. That definition will decide who can apply. If it is read narrowly to mean volumetric modular units and wood panels, Canadian ICF plants would be left out of a program whose stated goal, faster construction at lower cost, is the problem our industry works on every day.

We have three requests. First, that the stream use a performance-based definition, one that judges a building system on speed of construction, labour productivity, quality and building performance rather than on a single format or material. Second, that ICFMA have a chance to contribute before the program parameters are set. We can provide information on Canadian plant capacity, employment and project volumes. Third, that you point us to the colleagues working on the common standards for modern methods of construction that the budget also funds, so the two pieces of work line up.

Because the money starts in 2028-29, there is time to get this right, and we would rather be useful early than raise concerns late.

I will call your office in the coming weeks to see whether a meeting can be arranged. In the meantime, I can be reached at jfacette@icf-ma.org or 613.850.2669.

Sincerely,

Jim Facette
Executive Director
Insulating Concrete Forms Manufacturers Association (ICFMA)