Dear Ms. Daviau:

This is further to your letter of May 4, 2020, concerning parking on behalf of the members of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada.

As per Treasury Board direction, federal employees are responsible for their commute to the workplace, including making arrangements for and covering the cost of their commute, which includes parking, where applicable. Parking services at federal facilities across Canada are administered by private companies with which employees contract directly. It is the employees' responsibility to deal directly with parking lot operators on any parking-related issues, including payment and the status of their agreement with the operator.

Parking management practices in federal facilities are the same as those used by the private sector in leased facilities. Providing any exception for federal facilities would cause inequity among employees who park at leased facilities where contract terms are adhered to, and among employees who do not use parking facilities. Such an exception would also result in a direct financial benefit (using public money) for some public servants over others, which is a benefit not applied to non-public servants.

Many people across Canada are currently experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there are a number of federal government programs in place that can be accessed to provide assistance to families and individuals in need. Public servants are very fortunate in that they continue to receive their full salary, uninterrupted, during this time.

I recognize that the decision to cancel one's parking space may be difficult for some, especially in light of the unknown duration of the pandemic and the risk of not having a parking space upon return to work. However, it is the responsibility of the individual employee to determine their requirements in this regard.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Stéphan Déry
Assistant Deputy Minister
Real Property Services