

Election 2015: Infrastructure is an investment in prosperity

Canada needs federal government leadership and vision on infrastructure

- The three levels of government (federal, provincial, municipal) should work towards a collective goal of restoring infrastructure investment to 6% of GDP.
- The commitment to infrastructure investments needs to be strategic, predictable and ongoing in order to provide the best value and return on investments to Canadians.
- Investments must be made based upon a clear, efficient and transparent application process that reflects the demonstrated needs of communities and the economy.
- Asset management by communities is required in order to demonstrate and prioritize real needs and to objectively measure the success of infrastructure investments.

Benefits to Canadians

- Public infrastructure is a core business of government and vital to Canada's prosperity and enhances the economic, social and environmental quality of life of Canadians.
- Infrastructure is an investment that enables our economy, strengthens and connects our communities and protects our environment.
- Study after study demonstrates a link between infrastructure investment and economic performance.

Current situation

- Recent investments in infrastructure by all levels of government have helped improve the quality and capacity of some of Canada's public infrastructure.
- However currently committed funds, while very important, are not sufficient to meet all of the historical and emerging demands.
- Since 2006 infrastructure investment in Canada has averaged 3.4% of GDP, up from 2.5% from 2001-2006.
- However, even with recent government programs and initiatives, investments are significantly lower than 6% of GDP in the 1950s and 1960s.
- Some of Canada's major economic competitors such as China and India have been investing as much as 9% of GDP towards infrastructure.
- ACEC is prepared to continue to work closely with the federal government and other stakeholders to ensure that the program is a success.

Questions for the federal political parties

- What is your party's position on long-term, ongoing infrastructure investment by the federal government? How will you ensure that infrastructure investments are strategic and predictable in order to provide the best value and return on investments to Canadians?
- How would your party finance infrastructure investments? How should the appropriate sharing of responsibility for financing and managing various types of infrastructure by each level of government (federal, provincial, municipal) and the private sector be determined?
- How will your party work with stakeholders, including the provinces and territories, to ensure that infrastructure programs will have a clear, efficient and transparent application process that reflects the demonstrated needs of communities and businesses?
- How would your party encourage and support asset management by communities in order to prioritize the real needs and objectively measure the success of infrastructure investments?

For more information, please contact:

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