



Canadian Construction
Association
Association canadienne
de la construction

February 16, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

RE: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Dear Prime Minister

Canada's construction industry is astounded by recent comments made by a member of your cabinet earlier this week about the future of investments in new road infrastructure. Regardless of your minister's intention, these comments create uncertainty for industry and our economy.

Considering your government has made it clear that housing is a priority, these comments demonstrate a lack of understanding of what it takes to build a home and the communities that support it. Your government is asking our industry to build 5.8 million new homes, yet it has consistently overlooked the investment needed to support these homes and communities.

A report by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) estimates that it will require an average of \$107,000 in public investments per new housing unit for housing-enabling infrastructure. This amounts to a total of \$620 billion in public funding needed – an additional \$375 billion beyond the current planned budget. A significant portion of this funding is new roads to connect communities.

And that is to say nothing of the investment needed to support our economy and trade. Canada has been under-investing in our trade-enabling infrastructure for years, as evidenced by the drop from 10th to 32nd in terms of the World Economic Forum's global trade infrastructure ranking. Without continued investment in critical infrastructure, as recommended by the National Supply Chain Task Force, including trade-enabling infrastructure, Canada will fail to harness trade with its international partners for its economic success.

At the end of the day, a house without the infrastructure to support it isn't livable and an economy without the infrastructure required to move goods and services is set to fail.

This is why, in addition to providing clarification on the Minister's comments, we are requesting:

1. Confirmation that the federal government will continue funding new roads and related infrastructure.
2. A commitment from the federal government to contribute the necessary infrastructure funding required to build our trade enabling and housing enabling infrastructure.



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3. A commitment to put forward a regulatory framework that will allow and accelerate major infrastructure projects, including those designed to support housing and trade.

Building the Canada of the future – a Canada that can compete globally in trade, has a strong economy, and thriving communities – cannot be done without full collaboration between industry and the federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

Our industry is ready to work with all stakeholders to build a strong foundation for a stronger Canada, and we look forward to meeting with you and your staff to discuss collaborative solutions moving forward.

Sincerely,

Canadian Construction Association
Alberta Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association
Association des constructeurs de routes et grands travaux du Québec
BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association
Civil Infrastructure Council Corporation
Heavy Civil Association of Newfoundland & Labrador
Manitoba Heavy Construction Association
New Brunswick Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association
Nova Scotia Road Builders Association
Ontario Road Builders Association
Ontario Sewer And Watermain Construction Association
PEI Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association
Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association
Western Canada Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association

c.c.:

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