



March 25, 2024

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

Dear Prime Minister,

In navigating Canada's path toward sustained growth and prosperity, it is imperative that we come together to strategically tackle the pressing need to make continued investments in infrastructure with a coordinated, adaptable, and flexible approach.

On behalf of Canada's Premiers, I am writing to reiterate our priorities on infrastructure funding and policy. Unfortunately, a First Ministers Meeting has not been convened, despite repeated requests from Premiers to discuss the linked priorities of competitiveness and strategic infrastructure.

Provincial and territorial (PT) governments are best positioned to understand unique regional, municipal, and local infrastructure needs and have the proven expertise to deliver on Canadians' infrastructure priorities in their jurisdictions.

Premiers again reiterate the following principles in order to effectively meet the diverse infrastructure priorities across Canada:

- maximize both flexibility and predictability by delivering funding on a base plus per capita basis to support PT priorities and their ability to plan for the long term;
- provide support to PT governments in addressing the full spectrum of infrastructure challenges unique to their jurisdiction;
- ensure enough flexibility in federal funding that flows through PTs, so that PTs are able to achieve a state of good repair by balancing investment priorities between the restoration, repair, and maintenance of existing infrastructure and future growth projects, including any new investments in housing;
- work with PTs to support the development of trade corridors and strategic trade-enabling infrastructure;
- immediately address the unacceptable gaps in the level of infrastructure available in Arctic and northern regions;
- minimize administrative redundancies, duplicative processes related to governance, and red tape related to approvals, claims, and reporting; and

- support PT efforts to address potential climate change impacts.

Recent federal announcements respecting new requirements to be attached to infrastructure funding, including the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) and permanent public transit funding, will not alleviate the infrastructure pressures being felt from coast to coast to coast. One of the strengths of the CCBF has been in contributing stable, predictable funding and providing local flexibility in prioritizing infrastructure investments, so these projects can more quickly be realized on the ground.

Premiers are requesting the federal government to act as a true partner to support solutions devised and identified by PTs. They indeed have unique needs that require solutions tailored to their particular circumstances to alleviate these challenges. Respectful and meaningful engagement that addresses the interests and concerns of PTs will allow us to respond to pressing needs and improve the quality of life for all Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Houston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "H".

Tim Houston
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Nova Scotia

cc: Premiers