



## Residential & Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario

Constructing Ontario's Future

For Immediate Release

### Industry Calls On All Levels of Government to Make Major Investment in Infrastructure

*Joint Construction Industry Group Stresses That Now is the Right Time for Immediate and Long-Term Spending on Infrastructure*

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(Toronto) January 19, 2009 – Over 60 representatives from a wide cross-section of labour and construction management organizations are calling on all levels of government to act now and make a substantial investment in infrastructure to help stimulate the economy. The industry group, who gathered last Friday, is stressing that the timing is ideal for government to invest in infrastructure to generate economic growth and job creation while building core assets that will serve Ontarians for decades to come.

Representatives from the group will be meeting with Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan today to discuss their recommended action plan. They will also be forwarding their Vision Statement [attached] and priority program to the Federal Minister of Finance, Jim Flaherty.

“Increased infrastructure investment is the most beneficial action governments can take to spur the economy,” says Andy Manahan, Executive Director of the RCCAO. “Ultimately, the construction industry can lead Ontario out of this recession with government investment. Rationalization of the regulatory regime must be accomplished in order to achieve the goal of fast-tracking priority infrastructure projects.”

Construction investments – roads, water and sewer infrastructure, bridges, transit and housing, among others – have historically generated large multiplier effects beyond direct job creation. There are many reasons why spending money on short-term and long-term infrastructure projects is crucial during turbulent economic times, such as:

- Increasing employment opportunities
- Promoting local sourcing of materials relative to other investments
- Constructing core infrastructure is key to enhancing productivity growth and attracting foreign investment
- Fostering green targets, including more energy efficient communities and buildings
- Creating opportunities for further innovation in technology, materials and systems

Once government commitments have been made, the industry as a whole will be ready to work in partnership with all levels of government to do its part in reviving the economy during this challenging time.

The unprecedented gathering of such a wide range of construction and infrastructure organizations reflects the broad consensus that industry can respond immediately to government's readiness to ramp up infrastructure investments.

“If governments remain steadfast in their commitment to jump start infrastructure investments now, then the construction sector can deliver,” adds Michael O’Brien of Local 183. “Infrastructure investment in Ontario, and Canada for that matter, has been falling behind over many decades. There are real opportunities, right now, for the government to take positive steps by replacing, renewing and expanding the basic backbone of a civilized society – a workable infrastructure.”

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