

RCCAO welcomes changes to Ontario's cabinet

Government

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TORONTO —Premier Kathleen Wynne's decision to make Bob Chiarelli the new minister of infrastructure as part of her cabinet shuffle is being applauded by the **Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO)**.



"Minister Chiarelli has a long and distinguished career of public service at both the municipal and provincial orders of government," explained RCCAO executive director Andy Manahan in a statement.

"Our coalition welcomes his return to the infrastructure portfolio and we look forward to working with him to promote Ontario's Infrastructure agenda."

Chiarelli was energy minister for three years and also infrastructure minister from 2010 and 2013 under former premier Dalton McGuinty.

With the province committing more than \$137 billion over the next 10 years to roads, bridges, public transit, hospitals and schools, it's important to have proper planning and execution, the RCCAO stated.

"RCCAO's recent independent research has examined megatrends and the future of infrastructure, how best to implement the proposed federal infrastructure bank, as well as the long-term economic benefits of Ontario's 10-year infrastructure plan," the RCCAO release noted. "Chiarelli was the architect of the 10-year plan and his return to the infrastructure portfolio will give him an opportunity to carry-on this important work."

The Ministry of Infrastructure is now a stand-alone ministry that is responsible for the implementation of the province's \$160 billion investment over 12 years (starting in 2014-15).

"Key investments in transit, housing and public infrastructure are going to create jobs and ensure that Ontario remains a global destination for talent and investment," added Manahan. "Our coalition looks forward to continuing our working relationship with the Ontario government and Minister Chiarelli."

According to the province, the cabinet changes made on June 13 result in 10 ministers taking on new roles and seven new members. Among the notable changes were:

- Deb Matthews remains deputy premier but is also the minister of advanced education and skills development. She also becomes Ontario's first minister responsible for digital government. "In this new role, she will help Ontario become a North American leader in accelerating how citizens engage and interact with government through the power of digital technology," a release from the province stated.
- Mitzie Hunter takes on the role of minister of education.
- Dr. Eric Hoskins remains minister of health and long-term care and Charles Sousa remains minister of finance. Liz Sandals becomes president of the Treasury Board, with a mandate to deliver on the government's program spending objectives, as laid out in the budget.
- Indira Naidoo-Harris becomes associate minister of finance and is responsible for the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan.
- Michael Chan will lead Ontario's first stand-alone ministry of international trade and Glenn Thibeault becomes the minister of energy.
- Laura Albanese becomes minister of citizenship and immigration and will focus on the province's immigration strategy and refugee resettlement program, the release stated.

Women now make up 40 per cent of the 30-member cabinet, which was part of the premier's commitment to take steps toward gender parity. Women also make up 50 per cent of the Priorities, Delivery and Growth cabinet committee, which is responsible for tracking government priorities and steering the government's four-part economic plan.