

CDAO releases 2015 Canadian election video series

by LINDSEY COLE Oct 13, 2015

With the federal election on the horizon, the Construction and Design Alliance of Ontario (CDAO) has released its 2015 Election Video Series, asking candidates from the four major parties to showcase their infrastructure investment strategies.



"For me, it was just opening up the dialogue, getting commitments from the various parties that infrastructure is important," says Andy Manahan, executive director of the **Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario** (RCCAO), which is part of the [CDAO](#). "Whoever ends up winning, whether its minority or majority, we have something on the record."

Manahan led the effort behind the series, in part because of the CDAO's efforts to promote policy discussion on infrastructure investment.

"Based on the fact that we have a big interest here in the province of Ontario, in terms of infrastructure, we thought it was incumbent to reach out and make the case and find out where they stood," Manahan explains, adding the CDAO is comprised of major associations representing builders, general contractors, engineers, architects and interior designers.

"It is a powerful organization when you look at the number of sectors that are involved. It's a force to be reckoned with. But, it's more than just the self-interests of each of the organizations. It's more, how are we going to build Ontario up."

The candidates in each of the videos were chosen by their parties as representatives to speak, Manahan adds.

Conservative candidate [Paul Calandra](#) highlights the economy and the success of the government's Building Canada Fund, calling it the largest and longest infrastructure investment in Canadian history; NDP candidate [Matthew Kellway](#) discusses his party's commitment to long-term predictable investment, including a dedicated transit fund; [Bill Morneau](#) explains the importance to the Liberals of working with municipalities and provincial governments, as well as engaging the private sector to get expertise; and [Wes Regan](#) explains the Green Party's commitment to involve the private sector and create a Council of Canadian Governments in order to prioritize the types of infrastructure cities and regions need.

"Our coalition was formed to help advocate with a strong and unified voice to government decision-makers," says Barry Steinberg, chief executive officer, Consulting Engineers of Ontario and the CDAO's current volunteer chairman in a statement. "Considering our massive infrastructure deficit, I am pleased to see that there is an emerging multi-partisan recognition of the importance of investment in Ontario's infrastructure."

Sandro Perruzza, chief executive officer, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, echoes his comments.

"Political leaders clearly recognize that infrastructure investments are a tremendous catalyst to promote our long-term economic prosperity," he says. Each of the videos are posted on YouTube and on the RCCAO's website (www.rccao.com).

They will also be shared through CDAO's industry network.

"It's not just our voices, it's chiming in with a number of other organizations saying, you know this is really important. We want to get it right and we want to hear from you and please go on the record for us," Manahan adds.

The federal election takes place Oct. 19.