



April 22, 2024

Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Chair  
c/o Vanessa Kattar  
Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs  
99 Wellesley Street W, Room 1405  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

*Sent electronically*

**RE: Bill 180, *Building a Better Ontario Act (Budget Measures)*, 2024**

The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) is pleased to provide commentary to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in support of the 2024 Budget Measures tabled by the Government of Ontario.

RCCAO is an alliance of key labour and management stakeholders from the residential and civil construction sector. RCCAO's members build the critical infrastructure that all Ontarians rely on. Our goal is to work in cooperation with government to offer realistic solutions to challenges facing the construction industry and which also have wider societal benefits.

Our membership includes the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association; Heavy Construction Association of Toronto; International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793; Joint Residential Construction Association; LiUNA Local 183; Ontario Formwork Association; and Toronto and Area Road Builders Association.

RCCAO commends the Government of Ontario's continued investment in critical infrastructure across the province in the 2024 Budget, *Building a Better Ontario*. This budget is focused on taking real action on Ontario's plans to build critical infrastructure for a growing and competitive province.

Budget 2024 recognizes that with Ontario's population growing at a record pace, building and maintaining critical infrastructure like roads, housing, transit, water and wastewater capacity is key to ensure the province will continue to have a strong economy and high quality of life.

RCCAO welcomes the Government of Ontario's renewed commitment to build transformational transportation infrastructure projects, including Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass. RCCAO has been a leading advocate for the construction of Highway 413 and other critical transportation infrastructure projects, and we welcomed the recent news that an agreement has been reached by the Provincial and Federal Governments enabling Highway 413 to proceed. RCCAO's commissioned polling, starting in 2021, has consistently revealed strong support for building Highway 413, the Bradford Bypass and the construction of new roads and highways across the province.

The investments in critical infrastructure in Budget 2024 reflect the priorities of the people of Ontario, who recognize that highways, water infrastructure capacity and housing are crucial to tackle some of the province's biggest challenges. RCCAO welcome the government's focused



\$1.8 billion investment in critical water infrastructure to support and enable the province's growing municipalities.

Water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure are essential to accommodate growth and upkeep existing systems flowing smoothly. The government's recognition that 1.5 million new homes will need the supporting critical infrastructure is a crucial component to help solve the housing crisis. Research suggests that, on average across Canada, the cost of municipal infrastructure required to support new housing construction is \$107,000 per home. The funding contained in the 2024 Ontario budget is necessary and very welcomed.

To build Ontario's critical infrastructure, it is paramount that industry has the necessary workforce. Building on the \$860 million already committed, RCCAO is pleased to see an additional \$100 million investment in the Skills Development Fund Training Stream to assist with the recruitment, training, and retention of a new generation of builders.

The priorities outlined in the Government of Ontario's 2024 budget highlights the long-term need to build and upgrade infrastructure across Ontario. RCCAO welcomes the Ontario government's continued efforts to confront these issues that will set the stage for a prosperous and sustainable future for all Ontarians. We look forward to continuing working collaboratively with the Government of Ontario as we construct Ontario's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nadia Todorova', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nadia Todorova  
Executive Director

C/

Colin Blachar, Press Secretary, Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance  
Navreet Hundal, Director of Stakeholder Relations, Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance  
Adam Cotter, Director of Stakeholder Relations, Minister's Office, Ministry of Infrastructure  
Luca Campagna, Director of Stakeholder Relations, Minister's Office, Ministry of Transportation