



June 22, 2021

The Honourable Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure
College Park 5th Flr Rm 5E200
777 Bay St, Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Sent electronically

Dear Minister Surma,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Infrastructure.

As you may know, the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) is a unique alliance of key labour and management stakeholders derived from the residential and civil construction sectors. A primary RCCAO focus since our inception has been the importance of investing in core public works – from transit and water systems to roads and bridges –and doing so smartly and efficiently for taxpayers and daily users of infrastructure.

RCCAO commissions independent research into the issues facing not only our industry, but Ontario society. We have commissioned 58 reports to date, which seek evidence-based solutions on infrastructure topics such as [improving water distribution systems](#), [modernizing the municipal class environmental assessment process](#), and [responsibly managing excess construction soil](#).

Over the last few months, we also worked extensively to ensure that municipalities across Ontario received financial assistance to help them deal with budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic and prevent them from delaying or cancelling necessary state-of-good repair projects. We commend the Government of Ontario's efforts and partnership with the Government of Canada on the Safe Restart Agreement in 2020 as well as the additional provincial funding in 2021 that was made available to municipalities to help them address the pandemic related budget shortfalls.

Infrastructure plays a central role in every aspect of life in Ontario. It is a crucial component for productivity, growth and competitiveness. As Ontario looks towards a post-pandemic world and recovering from the financial impacts of COVID-19, investing in infrastructure will be one of the best ways to help get Ontario firing on all cylinders once again. In addition to the social benefits of infrastructure and the creation of a hard asset at the end of construction, each dollar of infrastructure spending has a positive effect on the economy.



In the short-term, infrastructure investments support jobs and businesses, leading to lower levels of unemployment and a higher level of economic growth. In the long-term, investments boost the competitiveness of businesses, thus leading to greater wealth creation and higher living standards. Also, for every \$1 billion in infrastructure spending, GDP is boosted by an average additional \$1.46 billion, or an average multiplier effect of 1.46.

We would be happy to meet with you and discuss in more detail the work that RCCAO has done on infrastructure-related issues and how industry and government can work collaboratively to ensure that infrastructure remains a priority for the Government of Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nadia Todorova'.

Nadia Todorova
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peter Smith'.

Peter Smith
RCCAO Board Chair

Copy to:
Gary Rygus, Deputy Chief of Staff
Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association
Joint Residential Construction Council
LiUNA Local 183
Ontario Formwork Association
Toronto and Area Road Builders Association