



RESIDENTIAL AND
CIVIL
CONSTRUCTION
ALLIANCE OF
ONTARIO

Constructing Ontario's Future

Advertising Feature



Ontario Election: Your Opportunity to Promote Infrastructure

On October 6, 2011 people across Ontario will be going to the polls to elect the provincial government.

In all but a formal sense, the election is already underway. Incumbent MPPs and candidates around the province are spending the summer talking to constituents at barbecues, fairs, and community events. The Progressive Conservative Party and the New Democratic Party have already released most of their election platform commitments. The governing Liberals are expected to bring their policy planks forward as we go to print.

Since its founding in 2005, the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) has been a strong advocate for infrastructure investment. We have commissioned and promoted independent research related to planning, financing and building infrastructure, removing regulatory impediments, evaluating the risks and benefits of infrastructure investment and improving government procurement practices.

RCCAO is enlisting your help to ensure that candidates throughout the province understand the critical need for ongoing infrastructure investment. We need you to promote a meaningful election dialogue around infrastructure needs and to translate promises into deliverable actions after the election.

Infrastructure spending in Ontario accelerated greatly in recent years to begin to make up for deficits incurred over several decades under all three parties. That is a very good thing. The federal-provincial stimulus program was a recognition by all governments of the economic and social benefits of infrastructure investment to offset some of the effects of the worldwide financial crisis.

Now, the province needs to take the next steps.

The Ontario government recently released a long-term infrastructure plan outlining significant investment plans over the next ten years for many sectors, including transportation, health care, education, water and environmental protection. While the long-term plan is a great framework document, there will be numerous implementation issues to be worked out by whoever is in office after October 6.

Whether you are an employer, construction worker, union representative or simply a user of public infrastructure, here's what you can do to help promote an effective dialogue on infrastructure investment:

- Take the time to get to know your local candidates—meet them at their campaign offices, fundraisers, and community events.
- Ask them about their positions on continued infrastructure spending levels and long-term planning.
- Refer them to the RCCAO website and our many research reports on infrastructure issues.
- Attend all candidates' debates and publicly ask what commitments each candidate and party is willing to make for a consistent, ongoing program of infrastructure spending.
- Write an op-ed for your local paper or speak at a community venue about the need to make infrastructure an election issue.

Infrastructure spending all too often goes through boom and bust cycles as political attention shifts to other priorities. To maintain and expand high-quality infrastructure, we need two things: a commitment to steady, long-term infrastructure spending; and incorporation of business principles like asset management planning, scheduled maintenance/reinvestment, and full cost pricing into public infrastructure programs.

So let's get out and make sure those messages are not ignored!

The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) is an alliance composed of management and labour groups that represent all facets of the construction industry. Its stakeholders stem from residential and civil sectors of the construction industry, creating a unified voice. The RCCAO's goal is to work in cooperation with government and related stakeholders to offer realistic solutions to a variety of challenges facing the construction industry.



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RCCAO members include: Carpenters' Union • Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association • Heavy Construction Association of Toronto • International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793 • International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 46 • Joint Residential Construction Council • LIUNA Local 183 • Residential Carpentry Contractors Association • Toronto and Area Road Builders Association