



Sohi: Private sector key to infra bank

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Canada infra minister tells P3 Hub Canada private expertise will be vital; defends Liberal government's decision to remove P3 screen; P3s to remain "important tool" for government

Canada's infrastructure minister Amarjeet Sohi has encouraged private sector involvement in the proposed creation of a new federal infrastructure bank.

Speaking at today's P3 Hub Canada in capital city Ottawa, Sohi told delegates that the Liberal government is keen to access private sector knowledge to develop the plans.

"We want to encourage private sector investment into infrastructure," he said. "We have not been as creative in unlocking this potential and that is why we want to tread very carefully on the design of this bank.

"We want to engage the private sector on the best ways to do that. The idea is to engage the private sector to unlock the resources we have in Canada."

Sohi backed the use of P3s in Canada and claimed that the model will continue to be used under the new Liberal government. He defended the government's decision to remove the P3 screen from the Building Canada Fund, claiming that P3s will remain an "important tool" for the effective delivery of infrastructure projects.

As previously reported, municipal P3s will play a vital role in the development of new projects under the Liberal government, according to Sohi.

"For a lot of municipalities, times are tough," he said. "We want to create a new fund that any municipality can access and will provide dedicated funding to plan and assess what condition their infrastructure is in. Once they do that, they can tell how much they need to keep their infrastructure in a good state of repair."