



ACEC Supports Government Commitment to Infrastructure

Timely Implementation Will Provide Best Value to Taxpayer

(OTTAWA) October 22, 2013 - The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies (ACEC) applauds the federal Government's recent commitment to create a long term infrastructure plan, announced in the Budget earlier this year and confirmed in the recent Speech from Throne. ACEC is prepared to work with the government and other stakeholders to ensure that the plan is effective, efficient and provides value to taxpayers.

Public infrastructure is a core business of government and vital to Canada's prosperity," said John Gamble, ACEC President. "Balancing much needed infrastructure investment with current fiscal realities means that a well-planned, long-term approach is critical"

ACEC is encouraging the government to send a clear message to provinces and municipalities that the new Building Canada Plan is "open for business" so that the planning and application process can begin immediately, in time for new investments to begin in April 2014. To this end, ACEC is stressing the urgency of finalizing the provincial framework agreements and the application process as soon as possible.

ACEC also believes that there is an enormous economic opportunity if we can access Canada's natural resources and transport these resources to market. Encouraging investments in northern infrastructure (transportation, communications, power generation and transmission) will allow Canada's resource sector to create skilled jobs and expertise both locally and across Canada. Such investment in the North would also create the critical mass needed to make public infrastructure for northern communities more financially viable and logistically effective. In addition, creating more commercial activity and a more permanent presence in the North will strengthen Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic.

ACEC is collaborating with the Mining Association of Canada (MAC), the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada and the NWT Chamber of Mines to study the challenges of doing business in the North and possible policy instruments that could encourage more private investment.

Infrastructure is an investment in almost every aspect of our economic, social and environmental quality of life. A long-term infrastructure plan will build our communities and strengthen our economy in all regions of Canada.

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The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada represents companies in Canada that provide professional engineering services to both public and private-sector clients. These services include the planning, design and execution of all types of engineering projects, as well as providing independent advice and expertise in a wide range of engineering and engineering-related fields. For more information about ACEC, please visit www.acec.ca

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