



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Infrastructure cornerstone of federal budget

New investments good news for consulting engineers, clients and Canadians

(Ottawa) March 23, 2016 – The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) is pleased that the Liberal government's first budget focused on immediate and long term growth of the economy through investments in infrastructure and innovation.

The government's approach to infrastructure investment is a strong indicator that recommendations presented by ACEC and other stakeholders over the past several years and during the pre-budget consultation period were taken under advisement. Highlights include:

- Over \$60 billion in new federal infrastructure investments in two phases (\$12 billion in the first phase) in addition to the existing Building Canada Fund;
- Acceleration of portions of the existing Building Canada Fund;
- Previously uncommitted money from the previous Building Canada Fund added to the Gas Tax Fund over the next two years;
- An additional \$3.4 billion in investments for federal infrastructure assets; and
- \$2 billion over three years of new money for infrastructure investment in post-secondary institutions.

ACEC applauds the government for reaffirming its commitment to invest over \$120 billion in infrastructure over 10 years. "As ACEC stated in its pre-budget submission to the Minister of Finance, study after study demonstrates a link between infrastructure investment and economic performance; infrastructure investment grows the economy, strengthens communities and protects the environment" stated ACEC President and CEO John Gamble. "Furthermore, public infrastructure is a core business of government and vital to Canada's prosperity. Infrastructure enhances the economic, social and environmental quality of life of all Canadians. Now is the time to make much needed investments enhancing Canada's competitiveness and productivity."

The federal budget also contains significant measures to encourage and support environmental sustainability. While encouraged that the government proposes a rigorous environmental assessment process based on science, ACEC will be seeking assurances that processes will be efficient and won't encourage frivolous or vexatious delays to infrastructure and resource projects that are important to the economy.

ACEC is however disappointed that there was minimal assistance to the resource sector which has carried Canada's economy over many decades. The deferral of tax relief for small businesses is also unfortunate for this important segment of the Canadian economy.



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On balance, ACEC believes that this is a positive budget for most of the consulting engineering sector. ACEC will continue to work with the government to ensure that successful implementation of the budget is effective, efficient and timely for ACEC members, their clients and Canadians.

ACEC 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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For more information, please see [ACEC's budget analysis](#) and contact:

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