



# Creating a National Corridor

## Connecting Canadians, Communities & Markets

### Recommendation

- ACEC urges the government to enact many of the recommendations from the 2017 Senate Report titled ***National Corridor: Enhancing and facilitating commerce and internal trade***, by the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce.

### Why Canada needs a National Corridor

- The concept of a National Corridor is essentially a network of pre-established, pre-approved rights-of-way across Canada dedicated to accommodating multiple infrastructure assets (e.g. road, rail, pipeline, electrical transmission and communication).
- Such a corridor would make it more economically viable to connect northern and remote communities to vital economic and quality of life enhancing infrastructure (e.g. power, communications, road and rail).
- A National Corridor would connect goods, resources and markets across Canada facilitating interprovincial trade and providing access to more diverse international markets.
- A coordinated and collaborative approach to a National Corridor proactively addresses social and environmental concerns making the planning, development and implementation of both public and private infrastructure projects a less costly and more time effective process.

### Benefits to Canadians

- Compared to the current fragmented approach to infrastructure, accommodating multiple infrastructure assets within a National Corridor would require smaller geographical footprints and result in a lesser impact on the environment and on surrounding land uses.
- An integrated planning approach provided by a National Corridor would eliminate the need for multiple reviews of major nation building projects and allow governments to review and consult with aboriginal groups and local stakeholders on the correct location and where projects could then be built.
- The integrated planning approach provided by a National Corridor also offers a sound and predictable business case for private investments in economically driven projects by providing more clarity and certainty.

- A National Corridor would protect infrastructure from advancing urban development and offer long-term solutions to many land use challenges associated with developing major facilities.

## Current Situation

- Fragmentation and lack of coordination for planning and approvals are delaying and discouraging projects that could otherwise provide market access for Canadian products, allow movement of goods and services, provide energy and otherwise grow regional economies across Canada.
- Federal, provincial and territorial governments have already recognized the lack of infrastructure as a limiting factor in the further development of Canada's mining, and oil and gas commodity sectors.
- Failing to act in a timely manner may result in the cost of a National Corridor becoming prohibitive due to the increasing complexity and cost of identifying and acquiring the required lands that will be subject to overlapping jurisdictional policies and requirements.

## Additional Resources

- Planning for Infrastructure to Realize Canada's Potential: The Corridor Concept (Andrei Sulzenko and G. Kent Fellows, University of Calgary School of Public Policy, 2016)
- Preparing for Canada's Growth by Securing Transportation/Utility Corridors (Canadian Chamber of Commerce, 2015)
- Transportation/Utility Corridors (TUC) (Alberta Infrastructure Website)
- Mid-Canada Development Corridor: A Concept (Richard Rohmer and Acres Limited, 1967)

## For more information, please contact:

John Gamble, CET, P.Eng.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Association of Consulting Engineering Companies | Canada  
[www.acec.ca](http://www.acec.ca)  
[jgamble@acec.ca](mailto:jgamble@acec.ca)