

# PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES 2021

The Government of Canada has, with its provincial/territorial and municipal partners, embarked on an ambitious and much needed program to invest considerable sums in public infrastructure. The CPWA believes it is imperative that these significant infrastructure investments are built to last, are managed effectively, and that funding formulas and application innovations for infrastructure recognize the unique nature of small and mid-size jurisdictions. In order to achieve these objectives, while at the same time improving individual and commercial productivity by providing sustainable, safe and healthy places to live, work, play and invest, the CPWA recommends that attention be focused on:

## Emergency Management and Disaster Mitigation

### Planning

- Ensure that public works agencies have access to dependable, predictable funding for the development and implementation of comprehensive, all-hazard emergency preparedness plans, pre-disaster mitigation plans and long-term hazard mitigation measures.
- Encourage a collective approach to emergency management by including public works agencies, as well as First Nations, Inuit and Métis, in cross-sector task forces and study groups responsible for all-hazards education, training exercises and development of best practices.
- Encourage the development and coordination of timely information and tools to enhance and support the emergency management capabilities of public works agencies, as well as First Nations, Inuit and Métis, including coordination of Incident Management Teams.
- Allow for flexibility in the municipal use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)/drones, which public works agencies use for emergency management activities.

### Funding

- Expand the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) to support communities of all sizes by eliminating the \$20 million minimum project eligibility threshold.
- Dedicate federal funding and accelerate the timeline for updating Canada's flood hazard maps to show all potential sources of overland flood (fluvial, pluvial, and coastal).

### Communications

- Establish and support a dedicated Canadian Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) to provide communications interoperability to first responders and public safety personnel and ensure that public works agencies have access.

## Cyber Threats and Telecommunications

- Work with provincial, territorial and local governments to develop comprehensive cybersecurity guidelines/ best practices and training programs to support public works agencies that deliver services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Work with provincial, territorial and local governments to share threat information and provide technical support to protect computer networks and other related critical infrastructure.

## Sustainable and Climate Resilient Infrastructure

### Planning

- Encourage investment in public infrastructure projects that are planned and executed using sustainability rating systems such as Envision.
- Encourage infrastructure investment strategies that recognize the value, and include the management and sustainability, of natural assets.

### Funding

- Continue direct funding to local communities through an increase to the federal Gas Tax Fund.
- Expand federal funding programs to include operations and maintenance activities.
- Create a permanent federal funding mechanism to support and enhance the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of modern water and wastewater systems in communities of all sizes.

### Safety

- Dedicate funding to assist public works agencies in addressing the persistence of lead in service lines and plumbing fixtures.