

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES 2020

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

CPWA Priorities

- Provide dependable, predictable funding for long-term emergency management and disaster mitigation strategies that encourage collaboration amongst all levels of government and Indigenous communities
- Encourage a collective approach to emergency management, including the participation of public works agencies and professionals in 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 municipalities, including coordination of Incident Management Teams
- Establish and fund a dedicated Canadian Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) to provide communications interoperability to first responders and public safety personnel
- Develop national cybersecurity guidelines/best practices and work with provincial, territorial and local governments to share threat information and provide technical support to protect computer networks and other related critical infrastructure

Asset Management and Natural Assets

CPWA Priorities:

- Encourage infrastructure investment strategies that recognize the value, and include the management and sustainability, of natural assets
- Fund training and technical support for communities that are challenged to develop asset management programs that integrate natural asset into plans and operations

Sustainable and Climate Resilient Infrastructure

CPWA Priorities:

- Provide dependable, predictable funding for climate resilient infrastructure and capacity building for climate change adaptation
- Direct public funds towards public infrastructure projects that have been planned and executed in accordance with sustainability principles through the use of sustainability rating systems such as Envision®

Direct Funding to Municipalities

CPWA Priorities:

- Continue funding local communities through an increase to the federal Gas Tax Fund

Public Rights-of-Way Management and Universal, Affordable Access to Broadband and Cellular Services

CPWA Priorities:

- Implement a national strategy to ensure universal, affordable access to broadband and cellular services
- Provide dependable, predictable funding for broadband and cellular services, as well as training in the management of public rights of way, to rural, remote and northern communities
- Ensure the authority of public agencies to regulate and manage public rights-of-way