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## WESTERN CANADA ROADBUILDERS & HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (WCR & HCA)

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Mr. Stephen Harper  
Conservative Party of Canada  
#1720 - 130 Albert Street  
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Dear Sirs:

The Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA), founded in 1943, represents the heavy civil and related industries in the four western provinces. The industries represented by the WCR&HCA provide direct and indirect employment to roughly 250,000 Canadians in western Canada.

Our mandate is to pursue the development of responsible and fiscally sustainable policies which re-invest in Canada's core municipal and transportation infrastructure.

We are pleased that all three parties have identified investment in Canada's infrastructure as an important area of public policy and investment attention.

As part of our participation in the federal election, we have a series of questions we would appreciate response to for immediate circulation to the industries we represent throughout western Canada.

The WCR&HCA urges you to support the allocation of a portion of federal fuel taxes towards the funding of Canada's core municipal infrastructure and transportation, and to a National Highways Program (NHP), as part of a broader National Infrastructure Strategy (NIS).

We urge you to press for the full consideration of matters guided by the following principles:

1. Federal fuel taxes allocated to municipal infrastructure should be dedicated to address core municipal infrastructure assets, namely: roads, highways, bridges and related structures; water treatment and distribution systems; waste water collection and treatment; and urban transit systems;
2. In addition, provincial governments should receive a share of the federal fuel taxes as part of a federal contribution towards the funding of a National Highways System. This national asset requires a reliable, sustained and transparent revenue stream;
3. Federal fuel taxes allocated to municipal or provincial governments as above contemplated must be incremental to existing capital budgets and not in their substitution;

4. Projects funded by the allocation of federal fuel taxes should be publicly tendered without any preferences or prequalification, to ensure value, quality, competitive cost and transparency.

To kick start funding of the National Highways System, the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) has recently suggested an allocation of a portion of the Petro-Canada share sale proceeds – see attached backgrounder.

Our questions are as follows:

1. Would you support allocation of a portion of federal fuel taxes dedicated towards reinvestment in Canada's core municipal infrastructure and transportation assets as described above?
2. Would you support allocating a portion of federal fuel taxes to provincial governments towards the funding of Canada's National Highways System?
3. Would you ensure that Federal fuel taxes allocated to municipal or provincial governments as above contemplated would be incremental to existing capital budgets and not in their substitution?
4. Would you ensure that federally funded infrastructure projects are publicly tendered without any preferences or prequalification, to ensure value, quality, competitive cost and transparency?
5. Would you support the allocation of a portion of the sale proceeds of Petro-Canada to kick start funding of Canada's National Highways System?

The above areas of public policy are in need of your political leadership and attention.

We respectfully request your replies by Wednesday, June 23, 2004. We intend to circulate to mass media and to industry the results of this questionnaire.

Replies should be forwarded by fax to the WCR&HCA at number 204-943-2279.

We look forward to your replies and close by wishing you electoral successes.

Yours truly,  
Western Canada Roadbuilders &  
Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA)



Per:  
Cal Moon, P.Eng., G.S.C.,  
Chair WCR&HCA



Chris Lorenc, B.A., LL.B.,  
President

cc: Shirley Westeinde, Chairperson, Canadian Construction Association (CCA)  
Michael Atkinson, President CCA  
Jeff Morrison, Executive Director, The Road & Infrastructure Program of Canada (TRIP/Canada)  
WCR&HCA Board of Directors