



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

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November 16, 2004

Rt. Hon. Paul Martin, P.C., M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

The Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA) represents the heavy construction and related industries in the four western provinces. We have since our inception in 1943, promoted at the national and regional levels, sustainable policies related to the investment in Canada's core municipal and transportation related infrastructure assets.

Our industry supported your May 2003 announcement to the FCM Conference in Winnipeg, and since becoming Prime Minister, that you will allocate five cents of federal fuel taxes towards the funding of Canada's core municipal infrastructure and transportation assets.

You may recall that at a September 2003 reception with Canada's construction industry leaders in Toronto, you indicated an ongoing commitment to paying down the national debt, a position we also endorse.

In response to questions from attendees you identified funding for a National Highways Program (NHP) as a candidate for new programming upon further reduction of the national debt. Your government to its credit has recently applied \$9 billion towards paying down the debt, thereby further freeing up fiscal room with which to consider funding a long overdue National Highways Program.

You had also expressed an invitation to receive suggestions on how infrastructure might be funded sustainably in this country.

We respectfully attach a brief which provides a template for your government to consider. It reflects upon your remarks referred to above, provides for funding transparency and multi-government accountability, suggests allocation of a portion of Petro-Canada share sale proceeds towards the NHP, mandates application of new technology, encourages public private partnerships and suggests establishment of a semi-arms length agency much like the existing Federal Bridge Corporation to manage the investments.

The brief is submitted with the offer of our Association to participate in any manner which helps your government shape its national infrastructure investment strategy to platform Canada to greater economic and quality of life heights.

We remain with respect,

Yours truly,

Cal Moon, P.Eng., G.S.C.
Chair

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

- cc. Hon. Ralph Goodale, Minister of Finance
- Hon. Jean Lapierre, Minister of Transport
- Shirley Westeinde, G.S.C., Chair Canadian Construction Association (CCA)
- Michael Atkinson, President CCA
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- FCM Big City Mayors' Caucus