

Mississauga, March 26, 2021

The OSWCA applauds the Provincial governments commitments to provide \$500 Million to assist cash-strapped municipalities to help cover pandemic-related costs. Municipal Affairs Minister, Steve Clark, outlined the flexibility of such funds, noting the money can be used to pay for community services and ongoing capital projects. The funding allocation is nonprescriptive and provides flexibility for how municipalities can utilize it to ensure that operational deficits are being covered, and capital improvements can continue to be undertaken.

We are also pleased to learn that the government has committed \$21 billion over the next ten years to expand highways and bridges, and \$61 billion over that same time for other large scale transit projects. These project investments are important to the health of our sector, given the significant underground infrastructure components associated with this work.

Ontario's population is projected to increase by 31.5 per cent, or almost 4.6 million, over the next 27 years, from an estimated 14.6 million on July 1, 2019 to almost 19.2 million by July 1, 2046. It is critical our core infrastructure keeps pace with population growth.

Building sewer, watermain, and stormwater infrastructure is also critical to our economy, especially considering the fiscal impacts COVID-19 has had. Projects undertaken because of this funding will create thousands of jobs and generate billions of dollars in real GDP during construction.

"Construction can breathe a sigh of relief that the Ontario government has remained committed to moving forward with key infrastructure projects that will enable trade, power businesses, connect workers to their jobs, and create opportunities for struggling communities," said Patrick Mcmanus, Executive Director at OSWCA.

The Ontario Sewer & Watermain Construction Association (OSWCA) fosters health and safety, professionalism, ethical processes, sound infrastructure investments, good governance, and fiscal responsibility on behalf of Ontario's sewer and watermain construction industry.

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