

MEMBER BULLETIN

January 15, 2021

Campaign to Secure Municipal Capital Works Funding

Over the last four months, we have partnered with the RCCAO and its members on an intensive lobbying campaign reaching all three levels of government. The objective of the campaign has been to secure funding for municipalities to help balance their 2020 budgets so that money would not have to be taken from capital budgets to make up the shortfalls created by emergency COVID spending. We were successful in these efforts with the provincial and federal governments announcing joint funding just prior to the holidays in December.

The job now is to secure funding for municipalities again, to enable them to draft balanced budgets for 2021 without having to slash capital spending. You may have heard Mayor John Tory's call on Tuesday for \$870 million from the province and the feds to let him balance the 2021 budget without capital cuts. A copy of his speech to the Empire Club is attached. RCCAO consultants and Directors are meeting virtually with political leaders at all three levels of government almost on a daily basis to try to generate the funding needed by municipalities.

To help push this objective forward, today RCCAO released a short (2-minute) video based on the report from Prism Economics & Analysis [Averting a Crisis: The Need to Protect Ontario's Infrastructure Investments](#). You can view the video [here](#). The report shows that shows tens of thousands of construction jobs at risk if governments don't maintain a commitment to capital infrastructure investment. The press release announcing the video can be viewed [here](#). RCCAO is distributing the video and press release to government contacts in all three levels of government to continue to keep our infrastructure advocacy top of mind for decision makers.

If you have any questions about our lobbying efforts or the RCCAO promotional material, please contact Patrick McManus (patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org or 905-629-7766).