

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CPWA Commends Government's Budget 2017 Focus on Data Collection and Climate Resilience to Direct Infrastructure Investments

OTTAWA, ONTARIO – March 23, 2017 –The Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA) commends the Government of Canada's 2017 Budget announced by Finance Minister Morneau yesterday, and specifically the data initiative to be undertaken by the Government of Canada, the Canada Infrastructure Bank and Statistics Canada that will gather intelligence to better direct infrastructure investments.

"The Government's commitment to helping municipalities better collect, track and use data in order to assess the impact of their infrastructure investments is critical to supporting local governments' public works agencies," said CPWA President Andrew Stevenson, of ATAP Infrastructure Management Ltd.

The Government's ambitious data initiative proposes that the Government, the new Canada Infrastructure Bank and Statistics Canada will work in partnership with provinces, territories and municipalities in support of efforts to:

- Provide comparable data and information on issues such as infrastructure demand and usage for jurisdictions across the country.
- Provide a national picture on the state and performance of public infrastructure across asset classes.
- Deliver high-quality data analytics to help inform policy and decision-making, and promote fact-based dialogue between all orders of government.
- Track the impacts of infrastructure investments so that governments can report back to Canadians on what has been achieved.

Mr. Stevenson expressed hope that "this data initiative can assist local communities in their asset management efforts and the pursuit of sustainable infrastructure, which have been priorities for CPWA for many years. Accessing data is often a challenge for smaller communities that may lack the capacity to undertake important analysis activities."

CPWA also commends the Government on the establishment of a new Canadian Centre for Climate Services, which is charged with improving access to climate science and regional climate

resilience centres, and the development of a new, cost-shared Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund for built and natural, large-scale infrastructure projects supporting mitigation. From the perspective of stewards of public infrastructure and of first responders when man-made emergencies and natural disaster occur, local governments and their public works departments understand the risks associated with a changing climate and recognize the need for adaptation and resilience planning. “The Government’s proposal of \$73.5 million in funding over five years to establish this new centre and to build regional adaptation capacity and expertise is very welcome news,” said Stevenson.

CPWA also commends the Government’s proposed funding for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to begin infrastructure planning and emergency management work with Indigenous communities vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters and extreme weather. This funding to undertake risk assessments, guide adaptation measures and improve the design and construction of northern infrastructure will ultimately enhance community resilience.

“Overall, CPWA looks forward to collaborating with the Government of Canada on these and other efforts to support the 21st Century infrastructure priorities of communities across Canada,” Stevenson said.

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About CPWA: *The Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA), or Association Canadienne des Travaux Publics, was founded in 1986 to enhance the services of APWA to the Canadian public works community and to improve the quality of public works products and services to Canadian citizens. CPWA’s more than 2,250 members in Canada, plan, build, operate, maintain and sustain the public works and infrastructure that improve our quality of community life.*