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CPWA President's Update – April 4, 2016

Kealy Dedman, P. Eng., MPA

Dear CPWA Members,

The first few months of 2016 have been a busy time for CPWA, as the new federal leadership settles into governing and as we and our colleagues continue to give voice to the need for long term investment in infrastructure. Here is a brief update:

January

Canadian Infrastructure Report Card (CIRC) Expands Foundation for Advocating Long Term Infrastructure Plan

The Canadian Infrastructure Report Card (CIRC), first released in 2012, has been a critical resource for CPWA and other organizations making recommendations to the Government. The second edition of the CIRC was released January 18, 2016, based on data collected from a survey launched on October 27, 2014. Expanding upon the 2012 assessment of drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and municipal road infrastructure, the 2016 edition also includes information on the state of municipal transit, sport and recreation infrastructure, asset management, and local bridges. The survey gathered more detail on inventory, condition and replacement value than the survey developed for the 2012 edition and the number of participating municipalities increased from 123 to 163. There was also a marked increase in the number of questions answered by participants, and therefore an improvement in the availability and quality of data that informed the findings. I'd like to thank all municipalities who participated in the CIRC survey.

CPWA is pleased to be one of the lead organizations behind the CIRC, which was referenced by Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, in an address January 21, 2016 to the Toronto Region Board of Trade. In his speech Minister Sohi noted:

- 1/3 of municipal infrastructure is between fair and very poor condition
- Rates of reinvestment in these assets are lower than recommended
- At current reinvestment rates this infrastructure will continue to deteriorate

Minister Sohi reported that the Government will spend the next year working with its partners to deliver a 10-year plan to provide predictable, dedicated and transparent funding, focused on three priority areas: public transit, social infrastructure, and green infrastructure.

You can learn more about the Report Card at: <http://www.canadainfrastructure.ca/en/index.html>

There will be a CLL on the CIRC May 5, 2016, 11:00a - 1:00p Eastern Time. Register online now!
[http://www.apwa.net/Events/items/8543/2016-Canadian-Infrastructure-Report-Card-\(CIRC\)](http://www.apwa.net/Events/items/8543/2016-Canadian-Infrastructure-Report-Card-(CIRC))

CPWA Submits its Budget Priorities to the Finance Ministry

On January 15, 2016, CPWA participated in Finance Minister Morneau's pre-budget consultation process by submitting CPWA's position on four key questions, including "What infrastructure needs can best help grow the economy, protect our environment and meet your priorities locally?", by recommending that the Government of Canada:

- Increase permanent, dedicated funding for municipal public transit projects with the express goal of reducing congestion, improving local mobility and supporting sustainable growth.
- Make all federal investments in core municipal infrastructure (such as roads, bridges, transit; other municipal transportation infrastructure; water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure) predictable and long-term, with sufficient flexibility to meet the unique needs and circumstances of each municipality.
- Support asset management planning and training for local governments.
- Use federal funding to assist municipalities with grade crossing improvements required by Transport Canada's Grade Crossing Regulations, published in December 2014.

February

CPWA Meets With Key Officials on Parliament Hill

On February 10, 2016, Past President of CPWA Darwin Durnie, consultant Alan Young and I represented CPWA in meetings with the following federal ministry staff and politicians:

- Jeff Moore, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Finance, Infrastructure Canada
- Sonya Read, Director, Infrastructure Canada
- Hersi Hujaleh, Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of Finance
- Mike Burton, Director of Parliamentary Affairs for Minister Sohi (Infrastructure Canada)

Although a bit shell-shocked from their first 100 days in office, everyone was quite interested to hear from practitioners (those who plan, design, build, operate, maintain and renew infrastructure) on potential infrastructure funding programs. Several referred back to Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Sohi's address to the Toronto Region Board of Trade on January 21st, where he emphasized that federal infrastructure investment over the coming decade will be focused on three areas: public transit, green infrastructure (water, wastewater and storm infrastructure) and social infrastructure (housing).

CPWA Submits its Budget Priorities to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

On February 19, 2016, CPWA submitted its priorities for the Government's budget to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance:

- Build municipal capacity in the management of public infrastructure assets
- Ensure sustainability in public infrastructure projects

March

CPWA Commends Government's Budget 2016 Infrastructure Spending Plan

CPWA commended the Government of Canada's 2016 Budget and in particular the two-phase infrastructure spending plan announced by Finance Minister Morneau March 22, 2016. Budget 2016 will take advantage of

historically low interest rates to invest more than \$120 billion in infrastructure over the next ten years from coast to coast to coast.

I noted, “The Government’s significant investments in transit, water and wastewater management, and green infrastructure, as well as a cost-sharing funding model for municipalities, are welcome news for local governments.”

Budget 2016 proposes:

- \$3.4 billion over three years, starting in 2016–17, for investments in public transit, through a new Public Transit Infrastructure Fund and distributed to provinces and territories based on their share of national public transit ridership.
- \$5 billion over five years for investments in water, wastewater and green infrastructure projects across Canada, including a new Clean Water and Wastewater Fund for provinces, territories and municipalities;
- \$2 billion over four years, starting in 2016–17, for immediate improvements to water distribution and treatment infrastructure;
- \$75 million in new funding to support municipality-led projects to identify and implement greenhouse gas reduction opportunities; and
- \$125 million over the next two years to enhance the Green Municipal Fund.

CPWA is especially pleased to note that the Government is proposed a new \$50 million capacity-building fund, delivered through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), to support the use of asset management best practices across Canada.

Upcoming Activities

CPWA to Meet in Ottawa April 18 – 19, 2016

The CPWA Board of Directors will meet in Ottawa April 18th and 19th. Members of the Board will meet with the International Federation of Municipal Engineering (IFME), Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI), Canadian Network of Asset Managers (CNAM), Infrastructure Canada, and Members of Parliament who advocate for infrastructure. CPWA’s annual meeting in Ottawa is an excellent opportunity to touch base and to provide face to face contact with the government, other stakeholders, and Parliament.

National Public Works Week – An Opportunity to Advocate! May 15 – 21, 2016



National Public Works Week (NPWW) is just around the corner and is a great opportunity for municipalities to advocate for public works and infrastructure funding at the grassroots level. Each of our CPWA Chapters is asked to solicit a provincial proclamation but there is also a great opportunity at the local municipal level to involve press, council members, and the Mayor in your NPWW events.

While displaying what you do and how you do it, don’t hesitate to quantify just how big a job you face – for example by quantifying pot hole repairs, clean water delivered to homes, sewage treated, and bridge and road repairs.

NPWW is also a great opportunity to advance public works as a career with career booths, high school visits, and a chance to meet your staff and see their jobs up close.

Finally, each year CPWA hosts a national awards program to recognize municipalities for their NPWW programs and events and all communities are invited to submit their activities. A panel of CPWA evaluators chooses winning entries based on criteria that include outreach, education, events held, staff involvement, political involvement, and creativity.

Entries for this year's contest are due June 17, 2016 and winners will be announced at the CPWA Luncheon at PWX 2016. A presentation will also be held for each of the award-winning municipalities in their home town. More information can be found on the CPWA website. <http://cpwa4.cpwa.net/PageDetails/5669>

CPWA Plans Events for PWX 2016

Registration is now open for PWX 2016 in Minneapolis, MN August 28 – 31, 2016! <http://www.apwa.net/pwx>

Although the APWA annual conference has been around for more than 120 years, PWX will be a different experience for all! With new education formats, new innovations and technologies, and more networking opportunities than ever before, PWX will be a fantastic new learning experience for all generations and all levels of public works professionals. Join more than 5,000 public works colleagues from North America and beyond for this exciting event!

On CPWA Monday, CPWA will once again play host to international attendees at the International Infrastructure Round Table and will host the annual CPWA Luncheon featuring National Public Works Week Awards announcements. APWA and CPWA are also planning an 'Advocacy Palooza' at PWX. The 'Advocacy Palooza' is envisioned as a few prepared presentations of advocacy activities that have been successful and an open forum for any members to exchange ideas and experiences.

Let Us Hear From You

As always, the CPWA Board of Directors would like to hear from you with any comments. Feel free to contact me directly at kdedman@guelph.ca or contact Anne Jackson at ajackson@apwa.net. And follow CPWA on Twitter @CPWATWEETS!