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Infrastructure Advocate Available to Comment on 2016 Ontario Budget

TORONTO, ON--(Marketwired - February 25, 2016) - The **Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario** (RCCAO), one of Ontario's leading advocates for infrastructure investment, is available to comment on the 2016 Ontario budget.

RCCAO was pleased to see the independent research report it commissioned referenced in "Jobs for Today and Tomorrow: 2016 Ontario Budget." The study "[Investing in Ontario's Public Infrastructure: A Prosperity at Risk Perspective, with an Analysis of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area](#)" was written by Paul Smetanin and David Stiff of the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA). The CANCEA report projected that the province's 10-year infrastructure plan could support approximately 11 per cent of Ontario's economic growth over the next 30 years.

The government remained steadfast in its commitment to infrastructure with more than **\$137 billion over the next 10 years** for roads, bridges, public transit, hospitals and schools. Starting in 2014-2015, that new pledge means Ontario is in for a \$160-billion investment over 12 years, which the government says will be the largest investment in public infrastructure in the province's history. This would support about 110,000 new jobs per year.

"The 2016 Ontario budget makes a number of strategic investments in infrastructure which are critical to our economy's long-term prosperity," says Anthony Fernando, director of public affairs. "Key investments in transit, housing and public infrastructure are going to create jobs and ensure that Ontario remains a global destination for talent and investment."

Among the infrastructure highlights: The Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, which finances water, sewer, road and bridge projects for small, rural and northern municipalities, will triple from \$100 million per year to \$300 million by 2018-19; through its Moving Ontario Forward plan, the government has pledged \$13.5 billion to implement GO Regional Express Rail, which is estimated to quadruple the number of weekly trips from about 1,500 to nearly 6,000 trips throughout the GTHA.

"With the federal budget just around the corner, we potentially could see a rare moment for Ontario infrastructure investment," Fernando says. The federal government's budget is expected to be tabled on March 22nd. It has promised \$125 billion of infrastructure investment over the next 10 years.

The [Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario \(RCCAO\)](#) is a coalition of management and labour groups representing a wide spectrum of Ontario's construction industry. RCCAO's goal is to work in co-operation with government and key stakeholders to offer realistic solutions for infrastructure investment.

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