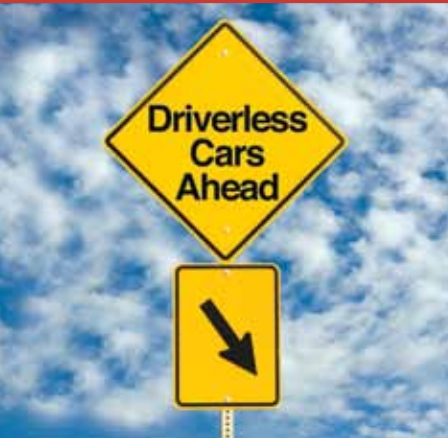




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Ontario and municipal elections: let's promote good infrastructure

The Ontario government has been making significant investments in infrastructure and is moving toward the development of a comprehensive long-term plan for the spring of 2019. The interim report, "Building Better Lives," was released in November and stressed that infrastructure must be more resilient and adaptable to future changes.

On June 7, people across Ontario will head to the polls to elect the provincial government; Oct. 22 will see elections for Ontario's 444 municipalities. Both dates will be critical for the future of the province's infrastructure, often only top of mind when talk turns to traffic congestion, crowded public transit, potholes, washed-out bridges, and boil water advisories.

Infrastructure is viewed by all parties as vitally important, but our political leaders must demand and use the best available evidence to support important infrastructure decisions.

Since its founding in 2005, the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) has been a strong advocate for infrastructure investment. We have commissioned 46 independent research reports related to planning, financing and building infrastructure, removing regulatory impediments, evaluating the risks and benefits of infrastructure investment, and improving government procurement practices.

RCCAO would like to enlist your help to ensure that all political candidates understand the critical need for ongoing infrastructure investment. We need you – any user of public infrastructure – to promote a meaningful election dialogue around infrastructure needs and to ensure promises become deliverable actions.

Here's what you can do:

- Meet local candidates at campaign offices and community events.
- Ask them their positions on continued infrastructure spending levels and long-term planning.
- Refer them to rccao.com and our many research reports on infrastructure issues.
- Attend candidates debates; publicly ask what commitments each candidate and party are willing to make for a consistent, ongoing program of infrastructure investment.
- Use conventional and social media to make infrastructure a priority election issue.

To maintain and expand high-quality infrastructure, both above and below ground, we need two things:

- 1 a commitment to a steady stream of long-term infrastructure spending.
- 2 incorporation of business principles like asset management planning, scheduled maintenance/reinvestment, and full lifecycle costing into public infrastructure programs.

Let's make sure those messages are not ignored!

p: 905-760-7777

e: media@rccao.com

rccao.com

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