

CONSULTING ENGINEERS OF BC PROVIDE VISION AND APPROACH TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN BC

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The Consulting Engineers of BC (CEBC) have announced their vision for maximizing employment and economic benefits in British Columbia from the recently announced \$20 billion in new federal and provincial infrastructure spending over the next two years.

Angus English, President of CEBC, says, "A lot of people have been asking our association and members, what does shovel ready mean, and where is infrastructure spending best focused. We felt compelled to provide our vision for British Columbia, to complement the good work of both the federal and provincial government in providing this stimulus to the economy."

Infrastructure refers to a great number of items from fixing potholes in roads, to seismically upgrading schools, to building new hospitals and bridges. The federal government economic action plan is based on three guiding principles—that the economic stimulus should be timely, targeted and temporary. So what projects in BC can begin within the mandated 120 days, per the government's plan, and which projects will trigger the largest increase in BC jobs and output?

English says, "A portfolio of infrastructure projects that create long term benefit and improve the quality of life within BC is critically important for stimulating the economy, restoring consumer confidence and keeping people employed. Many of our public sector assets are well past their expected service lives. This economic stimulus package presents a unique opportunity for BC to leverage the federal government's funding commitment and gain ground on the growing backlog of public infrastructure renewal and replacement projects. Sound long-term investments made today will pay dividends for BC for many, many years to come. This isn't just about a temporary cash injection on make work projects – without a focus on the infrastructure projects that will have long term benefits, you may as well just pay people to stay home."

CEBC's vision recommends a balanced portfolio of phased infrastructure investments over the next 2 years including renewal, replacement and expansion projects - small and large. "It is not realistic to have shovels in the ground for all big infrastructure projects within the next 120 days but it is realistic to begin the engineering, environmental assessments, and other important planning processes to do it right and allow all levels of government to make sound long term investments that will continue to pay dividends well into the future", added English. "Where you can have a real impact today in terms of jobs and economic activity is in projects that aren't necessarily the high profile marquee projects – it's in the smaller, less glamorous repair, renewal and expansion projects such as road repairs, sewer and water line upgrades, and seismic improvements for schools and renovations/retrofits for hospitals for example. We can get people working today and at the same time plan for tomorrow."



Examples:

- Sewer and Water Line Maintenance / Upgrades
- Roof Replacement at the BCIT Marine Campus
- Local Road Paving, Upgrading, Improvements, and Rehabilitation
- Fraser River Dyking / Flood Protection
- Community Centre Renovations

Examples:

- Water Meter Retrofits in Mission
- Affordable Social Housing projects throughout BC
- Seismic Upgrades to Schools
- Laurel Packinghouse Heritage Building Upgrade in Kelowna
- Police Facilities

Examples:

- Evergreen Transit Line
- City of Kamloops New Transit Facility
- BCIT Health/Life Sciences Complex
- Hospital Expansion & Improvements
- Annacis Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade