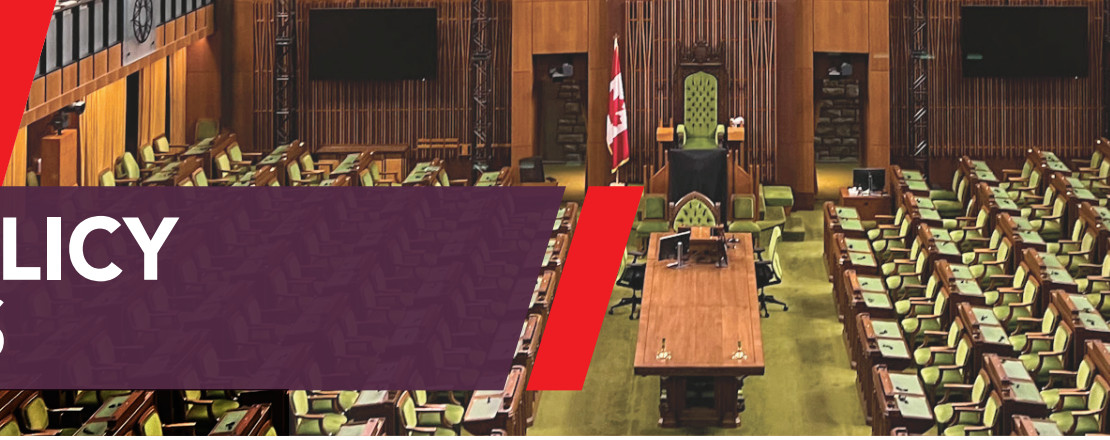


PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA), or Association Canadienne des Travaux Publics (ACTP), was founded in 1986 to enhance the services of the American Public Works Association (APWA) to the Canadian public works community. Since that time, CPWA has become "the voice of public works in Canada." The CPWA believes it is imperative that public infrastructure investments are supported by strong asset management systems, that they are managed effectively, and that funding formulas and application innovations for infrastructure recognize the unique nature of both rural and urban jurisdictions. In order to achieve these objectives, while at the same time improving individual and commercial productivity by providing sustainable, safe and healthy places to live, work, play and invest, the CPWA recommends that attention be focused on:

Emergency Management and Disaster Mitigation

Planning

- Ensure that public works agencies have access to dependable, predictable funding for the development and implementation of comprehensive, all-hazard emergency preparedness plans, pre-disaster mitigation plans and long-term hazard mitigation measures.
- Encourage a collective approach to emergency management by including public works agencies, as well as Indigenous peoples, in cross-sector task forces and study groups responsible for all-hazards education, training exercises and development of best practices.
- Encourage the development and coordination of timely information and tools to enhance and support the emergency management capabilities of public works agencies, as well as Indigenous peoples, including coordination of Incident Management Teams.

Funding

- Dedicate federal funding and accelerate the timeline for updating Canada's flood hazard maps to show all potential sources of overland flood (fluvial, pluvial, and coastal).

Communications

- Establish and support a dedicated Canadian Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) to provide communications interoperability to first responders and public safety personnel and ensure that public works agencies have access.

Cybersecurity

- Work with provincial, territorial and local governments to develop comprehensive cybersecurity standards and best practices to support public works agencies that deliver services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Work with provincial, territorial and local governments to share threat information and provide training programs, testing and technical support to protect computer networks and other related critical infrastructure.

Climate Resilient Infrastructure

Resilience

- Continue to encourage investment in public infrastructure projects that are planned and executed using sustainability rating systems such as Envision.
- Continue to encourage infrastructure investment strategies that recognize the value, and include the management and sustainability, of natural assets.

Funding

- Continue direct delivery stream of the Build Communities Strong Fund to support local communities.
- Expand federal funding programs to include operations and maintenance activities.

Innovation

- Include the costs of operations and maintenance activities in the design of federal funding programs meant to support the adoption of new and innovative technologies.
- Fund professional development, skills training, and capacity building initiatives to support the adoption of new and innovative technologies.
- Consider federal innovative financing programs and collaborative procurement to support municipalities with the upfront costs of new and innovative technologies.

Water Resilience

Protect

- Continue direct delivery stream of the Build Communities Strong Fund to support local communities.
- Expand federal funding programs to include operations and maintenance activities.
- Create a permanent federal funding mechanism to support and enhance the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of modern water and wastewater systems in communities of all sizes.
- Include affordability as a consideration in federal programs to ensure that disadvantaged communities are not denied essential water services.

- Support programs that assist provincial, territorial, local, Indigenous, and critical service entities in increasing resilience to natural hazards and with drought-related activities and expand the technology transfer of drought and water conservation strategies.
- Encourage the development of regional drought preparedness and response plans by water providers in cooperation with federal, provincial, territorial, local, Indigenous and critical service entities, and require those plans mitigate the negative economic, social, and environmental impacts caused by a lack of available water.
- Encourage planning and management efforts that include steps to reduce the vulnerability of future water interruptions, such as floods or drought.
- Require more coordinated, cooperative and communicative water management strategies and utilize comprehensive planning, data, and analytical methods, including land use planning, proactive mitigation, resource stewardship, environmental conservation, and public education
- Invest in physical and cybersecurity programs for public works agencies and municipal water providers to ensure enhanced security of water resources and infrastructure to protect public health.

Coordinate

- Support and adequately fund the Canada Water Agency to serve as a cross-functional national leader, focused on outcomes and coordinating the development of water policies, programs, and guidelines that benefit all Canadians.

Enhance

- Provide robust funding for existing federal programs that support maintenance and development of water and wastewater infrastructure programs.
- Dedicate federal funding to assist public works agencies in addressing the persistence of lead in service lines and plumbing fixtures.
- Fund professional development, skills training, and capacity building initiatives to assist the development and utilization of innovative activities relating to workforce development and career opportunities in the water sector.