

2020 Fall Economic Statement: Supporting Canadians and Fighting COVID-19

Points of Interest from a Real Property Perspective

This summary includes points of interest for the RPIC Board of Directors. It highlights **proposed investments** related to real property and infrastructure investments. Real Property Executives are also interested in Procurement, People Management/Diversity/Inclusion and IT investments (all of which are included in the Economic Statement), but those elements are not the focus of this summary.

Chapter 1: Fighting COVID-19

Investing in Made-in-Canada Vaccine Technologies

Investing in the government's capacity to manufacture vaccines by establishing a new bio-manufacturing facility at the National Research Council's Human Health Therapeutics Research Centre in Montréal (this is in addition to previous investments).

Ensuring Clean and Healthy Ventilation in Public Buildings

Additional funding to Infrastructure Canada to improve ventilation in public buildings and help reduce the spread of COVID-19. This funding will be directed to provinces, territories, municipal and local governments, and Indigenous communities.

Chapter 2: Supporting Canadians

Support for the Air Sector

Funding to the Regional Development Agencies for a new Regional Air Transportation Initiative.

Support small and regional airports in making critical investments in health and safety infrastructure, the government proposes to provide additional funding for the Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP).

Small federally owned airports, which are not currently eligible for ACAP, would also be eligible

Support large airports in making critical investments in safety, security, and transit infrastructure - funding to establish a new transfer payment program.

Extend rent relief extend rent relief to the 21 airport authorities that pay rent to the federal government with comparable treatment for Ports Toronto, which operates Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

To further assist airports to manage the financial implications of reduced air travel, additional financial support to airport authorities in 2021-22.

Federal Dept and Agencies – funding to replace lost revenues

- Parks Canada – replacement of revenues lost due to decreased visitations
- Corrections – operational pressures from COVID-19
- National Capital Commission – offset reduced revenues from rent relief to local businesses
- Public Services and Procurement Canada Program Integrity – continue service delivery despite lost revenues
- Employment and Social Development Canada – safely re-opening offices
- Justice Canada – offset revenue shortfall from lack of service fees charged to Depts; also funding for court operations (tech etc.)

Chapter 3: Building Back Better: A Plan to Conquer the COVID-19 Recession

A Down Payment on a Stronger, More Resilient Canada

Opportunity to build back better – for a greener, more inclusive, and more resilient economy

- Creating jobs and investing in training and skills
- Accelerating the universal broadband fund
- Addressing affordable housing and homelessness – link to the National Housing Strategy

A Competitive, Green Economy

- Home energy retrofits
- Zero-emission vehicle infrastructure
- Nature-based climate solutions e.g., planting trees and ecological protection
- Public transit infrastructure
- Strategic interties – clean energy initiatives – investments through the Canada Infrastructure Bank
- Sustainable finance – Department of Finance Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to create a public-private Sustainable Finance Action Council aimed at developing a well-functioning sustainable finance market in Canada

Building the Foundation for a Net-zero Carbon Future

Introduced bill C-12, the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act, to Parliament (Nov 19) – legislating Canada’s goal of net-zero by 2050.

Reconciliation

- Supporting infrastructure in Indigenous Communities e.g., water/wastewater infrastructure, includes O&M costs
- Co-development of onrastructure plans
- Mercury Treatment Centres (2) – construction and operation

Chapter 4: A Prudent Fiscal Plan – Fiscal Initiatives

Includes Policy Actions taken since 2020 Economic and Fiscal Snapshot – Funding

- To support service delivery on Reserves
- To Shared Services Canada for IT Infrastructure – supporting numerous services, including support to ensure public servants can work remotely effectively
- Additional funding to Library and Archives Canada (LAC) to support Ottawa Library/LAC construction project
- To ECCC to transfer operational responsibility for the Montreal Biosphere Museum to the City of Montreal
- To Fisheries and Oceans Canada for Big Bar Rockslide work in BC (salmon run)
- To National Arts Centre for modernizing digital infrastructure
- Updated funding for Defence Infrastructure Plan

New Secretariats/Task Forces of interest for Public Servants:

- Federal Secretariat on Early Learning and Child Care
- Task Force on Modernizing Employment Equity
- Centre of Diversity in the Federal Public Service