



2020 Speech from the Throne – A Stronger More Resilient Canada Summary of Points of Interest for the Real Property Institute of Canada

The Speech from the Throne (SFT) introduces the government's direction and goals and outlines how it will work to achieve them. This is a summary of items of interest for the Board of Directors for the Real Property Institute of Canada. This information will be used to help inform future programming to meet the changing needs of the federal Real Property Community.

This document will be expanded to include Ministerial responsibilities for delivering on these priorities after the Prime Minister issues the Ministerial Mandate letters to all Ministers.

The SFT states the pandemic is the most serious health crisis Canada has ever faced and Canada must address the risk and consequences of climate change and take bold action on health, economy, equality and the environment. The speech is built around four foundations/sections: Protecting Canadians from COVID-19; Helping Canadians Through the Pandemic; Building Back Better: Resiliency Agenda; and, The Canada We are Fighting For. For ease of reference, the information related to Real Property/Infrastructure Community interests are identified by section.

1. **Protecting Canadians from COVID-19 (*RP Interests - Our people and Procurement*)**

- will create a federal Testing Assistance Response Team to quickly meet surge testing needs
- will continue building domestic capacity to supply PPE, while securing supply chains to keep Canadians safe and create jobs
- has secured access to vaccine candidates and therapeutics, while investing in manufacturing here in Canada. Has made further investments in capacity for vaccine distribution.

2. **Helping Canadians Through the Pandemic (*RP Interests – Our People and Infrastructure Investments*)**

- will launch a campaign to create over one million jobs using a range of tools, including direct investments in the social sector and infrastructure, immediate training to quickly skill up workers, and incentives for employers to hire and retain workers
- will continue with financial support programs for individuals and businesses
- will create an Action Plan for Women in the Economy guided by a task force of experts whose diverse voices will power a whole of government approach.

3. **Building Back Better: Resiliency Agenda (*RP Interests – Infrastructure Investments, Fighting Climate Change, Training and Our People*)**

- Over the next two years the Government will invest in all types of infrastructure, including public transit, energy efficient retrofits, clean energy, rural broadband, and affordable housing, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and northern communities.
- **Broadband:** will accelerate the connectivity timelines and ambitions of the Universal Broadband Fund to ensure that all Canadians, no matter where they live, have access to high-speed internet- supports working from home and schooling for children.
- **IT systems:** will make generational investments in updating outdated IT systems to modernize the way that Government serves Canadians
- **Housing:**
 - will add to the historic National Housing Strategy announced in 2017 by increasing investments to rapid housing in the short term and partnering with not-for-profits and co-ops in the mid- to long-term
 - will move forward with enhancements to the First-Time Home Buyer Incentive
- **Training:**
 - will make the largest investment in Canadian history in training for workers. This will include by: • Supporting Canadians as they build new skills in growing sectors; • Helping workers receive education and accreditation; • And strengthening workers' futures, by connecting them to employers and good jobs

- **Climate action:** *(note legislative, machinery changes and new funds shown in bold)*
 - will immediately bring forward a plan to exceed Canada's 2030 climate goal.
 - will **legislate** Canada's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050
 - will create thousands of jobs retrofitting homes and buildings and cutting energy costs
 - will invest in reducing the impact of climate-related disasters, like floods and wildfires, to make communities safer and more resilient
 - will help deliver more transit and active transit options
 - will make zero-emissions vehicles more affordable while investing in more charging stations across the country
 - will launch a **new fund to attract investments** in making zero-emissions products and cut the corporate tax rate in half for these companies to create jobs and make Canada a world leader in clean technology
 - will transform how Canada powers the economy and communities by moving forward with the **Clean Power Fund**, including with projects like the Atlantic Loop that will connect surplus clean power to regions transitioning away from coal
 - will support investments in renewable energy and next-generation clean energy and technology solutions
 - will support manufacturing, natural resource, and energy sectors as they work to transform to meet a net zero future, creating good-paying and long-lasting jobs
 - will recognize farmers, foresters, and ranchers as key partners in the fight against climate change, supporting their efforts to reduce emissions and build resilience.
 - will continue the policy of putting a price on pollution
 - will work with municipalities as part of a new commitment to expand urban parks. This will be done while protecting a quarter of Canada's land and a quarter of Canada's oceans in five years, and using nature-based solutions to fight climate change, including by planting two billion trees
 - will ban harmful single-use plastics next year and ensure more plastic is recycled.
 - will also **modernize Canada's Environmental Protection Act**
 - will **create a new Canada Water Agency** to keep our water safe, clean, and well-managed
 - will also identify opportunities to build more resilient water and irrigation infrastructure
 - will look at continuing to grow Canada's ocean economy to create opportunities for fishers and coastal communities, while advancing reconciliation and conservation objectives

4. **The Canada We are Fighting For: (RP interests – Reconciliation, Infrastructure Investments)**

- **Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples:**
 - will remain focused on implementing the commitments made in 2019.
 - will continue to close the infrastructure gap in Indigenous communities, working on a distinctions-basis with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation to accelerate the government's 10-year commitment
 - will make additional resiliency investments to meet the clean drinking water commitment in First Nations communities
 - will support additional capacity-building for First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation.
 - will move forward to **introduce legislation** to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples before the end of this year.
- **Addressing Systemic Racism: (RP interests: Our People, Infrastructure)**
 - will implement an action plan to increase representation in hiring and appointments, and leadership development within the Public Service
 - will go further on economic empowerment for specific communities, and increasing diversity on procurement
 - will build a whole-of-federal-government approach around better collection of disaggregated data
 - will **introduce legislation** and make investments that take action to address the systemic inequities in all phases of the criminal justice system.
- **Official Languages:** is committed to strengthening the *Official Languages Act* among other things, taking into consideration the unique reality of French.

5. **General note:**

- The Government will update the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan – current plan found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>. It will outline the Government’s economic and fiscal position, provide fiscal projections, and set out new measures to implement the Throne Speech.

*Note: this summary of points of interests for the Real Property Community includes **direct excerpts** from the Speech from the Throne (September 23, 2020). The purpose is to provide the Real Property Institute of Canada Board of Directors with information about priorities related to the work of the real property profession in the federal government. It will help inform the development of future programming to respond to the changing needs of the Real Property Community.*