



Federal Budget 2019 Investing in the Middle Class

Summary of points of interest for RPIC and the Real Property Community

On March 19, 2019, the Minister of Finance tabled “Budget 2019 – Investing in the Middle Class”. The Budget includes investments that may be of interest to the Real Property Institute of Canada (RPIC) Board of Directors for future planning and programming purposes.

This paper summarizes the investments in real property/infrastructure, technology, human resources and related legislative/regulatory initiatives that may impact the work and/or workplace (people/technology/places) for the federal real property community. It also lists some federal investments in the areas of infrastructure and environment for partners and/or local communities and highlights topics that are currently being addressed in RPIC’s workshop programming.

The paper is organized by Budget chapter, followed by a summary of Policy Actions taken since the Fall 2018 Economic Update, Other Budget 2019 Measures and related Legislative/Regulatory updates/changes.

PART 1 – By Budget Chapter:

1. Investing in the Middle Class (*Interests: federal real property professionals’ involvement in the National Housing Strategy and the Workforce of the Future*)

- **Housing** – National Housing Strategy Commitments
 - Building on the Government’s previous investments, new investments are targeted at:
 - Reducing barriers to homeownership for first-time home buyers
 - Boosting the supply in Canada’s housing and rental markets – \$300 million to launch a new Housing Supply Challenge (Infrastructure Canada/CMHC); and,
 - Increasing fairness in the real estate sector.
 - Reaching Home – additional measures will be introduced over the next year to deliver on the commitments:
 - A new \$2.2 billion program to prevent and reduce homelessness, will launch on April 1, 2019 with the goal to reduce chronic homelessness by 50 per cent; and,
 - A new \$4 billion Canada Housing Benefit starting in 2020 is being co-developed with provinces and territories to provide financial relief directly to those in core housing needs.
- **Skills Development and Training Supports** – numerous investments are included to support education and skills development.

2. Building a Better Canada (*Interests: infrastructure investments – including investments for federal partners, energy efficiency, addressing climate change, skills development, science and technology – all topics covered in RPIC’s current programming*)

- **Investing in Canada Plan:** Since the last update in the 2018 Fall Economic Statement, long-term agreements have been signed with all provinces and territories that will deliver more than \$33 billion in federal infrastructure investments.

New initiatives:

- New Infrastructure Funding for communities (gas tax top-up) one-time \$2.2B
- Investing in future transportation (for colleagues who are responsible for RP and other Corporate Services e.g. materiel/fleet):
 - National Trade Corridor Fund (refer to Strong Arctic below)

- Initiatives to help individuals to choose zero-emission vehicles and support for business investment in zero-emission vehicles
 - Building on previous investments provides Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) with \$130 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, to deploy new recharging and refuelling stations in workplaces, public parking spots, commercial and multi-unit residential buildings, and remote locations.
- **Investments for Energy Efficiency:**
 - Reducing energy costs through greater energy efficiency - \$1.01B to be delivered through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Municipal Green Fund
 - Additional funding for the FCM – Municipal Asset Management Capacity Fund for skills training related to asset management
 - Improving Canadian Energy Information – provide NRCan \$15.2 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, with \$3.4 million per year ongoing, to establish a virtual Canadian Centre for Energy Information to be delivered by Statistics Canada.
- **Canada’s G-20 Commitments:** Continued funding and effort in fulfilling the commitments.
- **Fully Connected Canada and Access to High Speed Internet for all Canadians** continue working with jurisdictions across Canada, Indigenous partners, and the private sector to enhance connectivity and to support Canadians full participation in the digital economy:
 - New Universal Broadband Fund \$1.7 B (over 13 years)
 - \$5-\$6 B in rural broadband over 10 years
 - Incentives for business investments and innovations – harnessing partnerships
- **Strong Arctic and Northern Communities:** building on ongoing support:
 - More than \$700 million over 10 years in new and focused funding to ensure that Arctic and northern communities can continue to grow and prosper
 - Continue work with numerous partners, including Indigenous Peoples, territories, provinces and international stakeholders, to co-develop a new Arctic and Northern Policy Framework intended to identify shared priorities, goals, and objectives in Canada’s Arctic and North, through 2030. The Budget includes various investments to help achieve the goals.
 - Increase the allocation to the National Trade Corridors Fund to Arctic and northern regions by up to \$400 million over eight years, starting in 2020–21, to help build new roads and other vital connections to and between Arctic and northern communities.
- **Supporting Science and Protecting the Environment:**
 - Provide Environment and Climate Change Canada with up to \$21.8 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, for the Eureka Weather Station on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut.
 - Abandoned Mines – \$49.9 million over fifteen years, starting in 2020-21, to Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to create the Northern Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program.
 - Provide a further \$18 million, over three years, starting in 2019-20, to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to support planning by the Government of Northwest Territories for its proposed Taltson hydroelectricity expansion project
 - Exploring the potential creation of a marine conservation area in the High Arctic Basin or Tuvaijuittuq (which means “the ice never melts” in Innu)
 - Provide NRCan with up to \$7.9 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, to continue to provide scientific support for Canada’s claim to its continental shelf in both the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans.
- **Regional Initiatives**
 - Provide Western Economic Diversification Canada with up to \$1 million, in 2019-20, to develop a new strategy to sustainably manage water and land in the Prairies.
 - Improving crossings in the NCR: replace Alexandra Bridge, address need for an additional crossing with the NCC and support the rehabilitation and ongoing maintenance of National Capital Region crossings, including the Chaudière and MacDonald-Cartier bridges by providing up to \$80.4 million over 10 years.
- **Canada’s Innovation and Skills Plan:** Launched in 2017, the budget reports on progress and provides additional investments:
 - Global Talent Stream (started as a pilot to help innovative Canadian firms quickly access the highly skilled global talent) will become a permanent program. Investment - \$35.2 million over five years, beginning in 2019-20, with \$7.4 million per year ongoing
 - Investments in the Forest Sector, Oil and Gas Sector, Western Economy and Space Robotics

- **Support for Science Research and Technology Organizations:** Building on earlier investments, additional funding is provided – examples include non-profit organizations, and the new Strategic Science fund

3. Advancing Reconciliation: *(Interests: link to use of surplus federal real property in the settlement of claims, real property professionals' engagement and consultation with Indigenous peoples and infrastructure investments)*

- Settling Specific Claims and forgiving/reimbursing loans for Comprehensive Claims negotiations which will allow Indigenous communities to invest in their priorities.
- Supporting Strong and Successful Self-Governing Indigenous Communities
- Better information for better communities
- Core Governance support for First Nations
- New fiscal relationships – 10-year grants to provide certainty and flexibility
- Increased investments in Indigenous People
- Healthy safe and resilient Indigenous Communities
 - Additional investment in water systems
 - Accessible Urban Spaces – capital infrastructure investments in Friendship Centres
 - Improving Emergency Response:
 - \$211.0 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, with \$49.4 million per year ongoing to support increased resiliency and emergency management on-reserve
 - \$48.0 million over four years, starting in 2020–21, to renew funding for infrastructure projects on-reserve that will protect communities from climate related hazards
- Engaging Indigenous Communities in major resource projects – funding provided to NRCan to maintain its capacity to conduct meaningful consultations with Indigenous communities on major energy projects (e.g. Trans Mountain Expansion Project) and to support Indigenous economic participation in the natural resource.

4. Delivering Real Change: *(Interest: accessibility and inclusive environments, cyber security – protecting critical infrastructure, environment, disaster management and the public service pay system)*

- **Making Canada Accessible and Supporting People with Disabilities:**
 - The new Accessible Canada Act (introduced June 2018) will provide greater and more consistent accessibility across the country, through the proactive identification, removal and prevention of barriers to accessibility in sectors under federal jurisdiction.
 - Notes the Government intends to lead by example and become a model for accessibility in the workplace.
 - Provides Shared Services Canada with additional funding of \$13.7 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, with \$2.9 million per year ongoing, to help identify, remove and prevent technological barriers in federal workplaces.
- **National Strategy for Zero Plastic Waste:** Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment is working on an action plan to implement this strategy.
- **Public Safety and Justice:** Safeguarding integrity of Institutions and Infrastructure
 - **Protecting Canada's Critical Infrastructure from Cyber Threats:** building on earlier investments and proposes \$144.9 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, including \$22.9 million from within existing Communications Security, to establish resources to protect finance, telecommunications, energy and transport systems. Funding will also support the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security in providing advice and guidance to critical infrastructure owners and operators on how to better prevent and address cyber-attacks.
 - **RCMP:** investments include \$508.6 million over five years to support RCMP policing operations,
 - **Ensuring better disaster Management Preparation and Response:** provides \$151.23 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, and \$9.28 million per year ongoing, to improve emergency management in Canada, including in Indigenous communities. This investment will help to assess the condition and resilience of Canada's critical infrastructure – including energy grids, water and food supplies and health services – in the aftermath of a natural disaster.
 - **Better government**
 - Investments in Service Canada
 - Additional investments in the Phoenix Pay System (\$523.3M over 5 years) and continue to move towards a next generation system

5. **Gender Statement:** The Canadian Gender Budgeting Act was passed by Parliament in December 2018. It commits the government to decision-making that takes into consideration the impacts of policies on all Canadians in a budgetary context. It also established the Department for Women and Gender Equality.
- This chapter provides a report on progress in implementing the Canada’s Gender Based Framework and the use of the Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)
 - On Budget day, the Department launched the Gender Results Framework Portal, an up-to-date source of data and research relevant to the indicators included in the Framework (<https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/grf-crrg/index-en.html>).
 - Statistics Canada has a Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics (https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/topics-start/gender_diversity_and_inclusion).

PART 2 – Supplementary Information/Other Measures related to Real Property/Infrastructure and Technology Investments by Department (s).

1. Policy Actions taken since the Fall 2018 Economic Update:

- **PSPC**
 - Funding to support price and volume fluctuations related to real property assets.
- **Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNA)**
 - Confirms the funding to support the stand up of these two departments.
- **Deconstruction of the Champlain Bridge in Montreal**
 - The new Samuel De Champlain bridge has been completed.

2. Other Budget 2019 Measures:

- **Better Digital**
 - Funding to the Canadian Digital Service which works with federal departments to design, prototype and deliver better digital services to Canadians.
- **PSPC**
 - Predictable capital funding to improve the management of its portfolio of assets. Projects include the rehabilitation of the Alaska highway and replacement of the breaker transformation distribution system at Sinclair Centre in Vancouver.
 - Real property repairs and maintenance funding for the Federal Accommodation Program to maintain the current office accommodation and related real property services to federal departments and agencies.
- **Courts Administrative Service**
 - Funding includes the relocation of the federal court house in Montreal
- **Renew Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan**
 - \$22 M per year over 4 years starting in 2020. Departmental allocations to be determined.
- **Supporting Capital Assets in Canada’s National Parks, Conservation Areas and Historic Sites**
 - Funding proposed for capital projects in national parks, national marine conservation areas and national historic sites administered by the Parks Canada Agency.
- **Enhancing Indigenous Engagement and Capacity support**
 - Funding proposed for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to support Indigenous partners’ development of, and participation in, consultation processes with the Government of Canada through Consultation Protocols.
- **Infrastructure Canada**
 - Support for provincial infrastructure projects.

PART 3: Legislative or Regulatory Initiatives – of interest to RP Professionals

- **Housing:** proposes the introduction of new legislation which will require the federal government to maintain a National Housing Strategy that prioritizes the housing needs of the most vulnerable and will require regular reporting to Parliament on progress toward the Strategy’s goals and outcomes.
- **Regulatory Cooperation:** provides \$3.1 million per year in ongoing funding to the Treasury Board Secretariat, starting in 2020–21, to support its leadership of the priorities at home and abroad.

- **Modernizing Regulations:** proceeding with legislation to permit an annual modernization bill consisting of legislative amendments to various statutes to help eliminate outdated federal regulations and better keep existing regulations up to date
- **Cyber Security:** proposing new legislation and make necessary amendments to existing federal legislation in order to introduce a new critical cyber systems framework.
- **RCMP:** proposing to introduce legislative amendments to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act and other Acts, as required, in order to establish the Management Board for the RCMP.
- **Parks Canada Agency Act:** plans to introduce amendments to create a standard, one-year appropriation authority for the Agency

Source: “2019 Federal Budget”

This document is provided for information only. Excerpts were taken from the 2019 Budget Plan and re-organized for easy reference by the RPIC Board. This information is intended to help inform professional development and training priorities for the Institute.

Note: The current RPIC programming for its Workshops (RP National, FCS National/Regional, Forum on the Workplace and Marine Infrastructure), includes reference to and/or covers most of the topics highlighted in this report.