

BUILDING ONTARIO UP

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR *MOVING ONTARIO
FORWARD – OUTSIDE THE GTHA*



Minister's Message

Building Ontario Up

Our government is making unprecedented investments in infrastructure over the next ten years. We know that Ontario's overall growth is driven by its regional economies. That's why we want to make sure that we get it right for every community in every region across the province – and we need your input.

Right now, we're looking for your advice on how to design the initiatives that are part of *Moving Ontario Forward*, our plan to build critical infrastructure and an integrated transportation network across the province. We have about \$15 billion available to invest in roads, bridges, transit and other critical infrastructure in communities across Ontario that are outside of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

As we discuss in this paper, part of the \$15 billion in funding is already working to build important projects in communities across Ontario, but we have a significant amount of funding available that hasn't been allocated yet. We want to put that money to work in your region as soon as possible. We need your help in making sure that investments are targeted to meet local needs and support economic development in your region.

Nobody knows your communities better than you do. That's why we want to work with you as we design initiatives that will help create jobs and boost productivity, economic growth and prosperity.

This Discussion Guide marks the official kick-off of our consultation process. We will also be holding a series of regional roundtables this summer to talk about how we can make *Moving Ontario Forward* work for you.

This is an exciting opportunity to make sure your voice is heard as we design infrastructure programs that have the potential to make a real difference in your communities.

I can't wait to hear your ideas. I know that by working together, we can achieve the best results for everyone in every region across Ontario.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Duguid".

Brad Duguid

**Minister of Economic Development,
Employment and Infrastructure**

We need your input

We want to ensure that our infrastructure initiatives address the unique needs of communities in every region across the province.

That's where you come in.

We need advice from regions, communities, Aboriginal partners and the private sector as we design new initiatives that are part of *Moving Ontario Forward – Outside the GTHA*.

This guide poses practical discussion questions to get the conversation going. You can respond to these questions in writing and/or during a series of regional roundtable meetings this summer.

WHY INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE?

We are making unprecedented infrastructure investments to keep pace with Ontario's growth, and to ensure our future prosperity.

To compete in a global marketplace, we need to make sure goods can get to market quickly, and people can get around safely and efficiently across the province.

That's why we have established dedicated funds through *Moving Ontario Forward – Outside the GTHA*.

We will invest in the modern infrastructure we need to help create jobs and support regional economic growth – now and for generations to come.

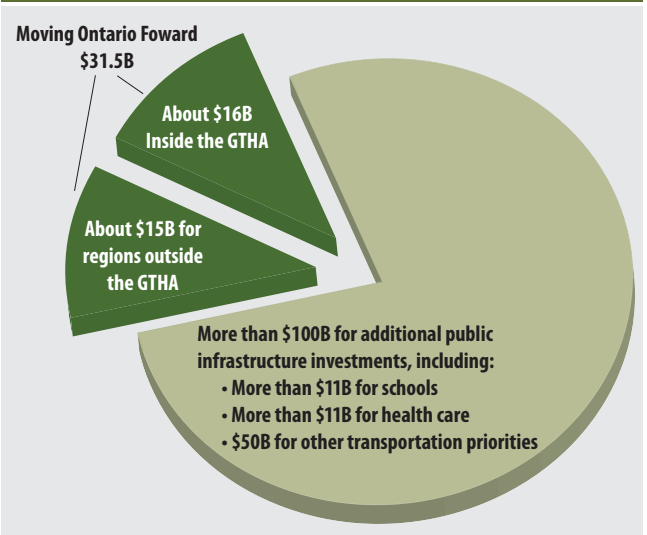
WHAT IS ONTARIO DOING TO SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE?

Ontario is investing more than \$130 billion over 10 years in public infrastructure – the largest investment in infrastructure in Ontario's history – as part of our *Building Together* plan. This is expected to support more than 110,000 jobs each year on average in construction and related industries.

These investments are going towards better schools and hospitals, safer roads and bridges and more efficient public transit.

A significant amount of that total investment, \$31.5 billion, is allocated to *Moving Ontario Forward*, Ontario's plan to improve public transit, transportation and other priority infrastructure projects across the province over the next ten years.

FIGURE 1 - *Moving Ontario Forward* is part of Ontario's 10-Year, \$130 Billion+ Infrastructure Plan



We are committed to building infrastructure and supporting economic development in a way that is fair and addresses critical needs in every part of the province. *Moving Ontario Forward* is broken down into two separate amounts — about \$16 billion is available within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and about \$15 billion is available outside the GTHA. The distribution of funding is per capita, based on StatsCan data, for inside and outside the GTHA. This means, for example, that funds raised from the residents of Thunder Bay won't be spent on infrastructure in downtown Toronto.

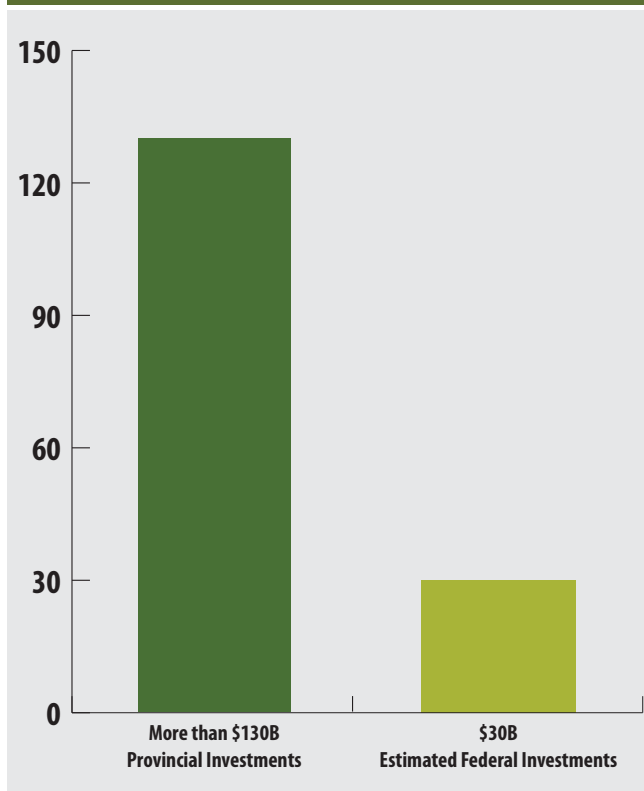
A STRONG FEDERAL PARTNER

Ontario continues to call on the federal government to provide long-term, stable funding for infrastructure across the province.

The recent federal budget added only \$5.75 billion over 10 years to existing infrastructure programs across the entire country. Federal infrastructure investments for the next ten years will total approximately \$81 billion nationally, significantly less than Ontario's \$130 billion commitment. And yet, the federal government still benefits from the economic growth associated with these infrastructure investments.

The federal government has the capacity to commit to a greater amount of infrastructure investment to help drive prosperity and create jobs across the country. The federal government should partner with provinces and territories to increase investments in public infrastructure and improve Canada's economic competitiveness.

FIGURE 2 : Federal and Provincial Infrastructure Investments in Ontario over 10 Years



WHAT IS MOVING ONTARIO FORWARD - OUTSIDE THE GTHA?

It makes approximately \$15 billion available to invest in roads, bridges, transit and other critical infrastructure outside of the GTHA.

Work has already started.

Work is already underway across the province under *Moving Ontario Forward – Outside the GTHA*, including:

\$100 million per year under the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund to help small, rural and northern communities build and repair critical infrastructure. Half of the funding is allocated annually through a fair and transparent formula, and which communities are already accessing. The remaining funding is flowing through an application-based process; 78 projects were announced in February 2015.

\$272 million over 10 years to support projects in communities with populations under 100,000, in conjunction with the federal government, through the Small Communities Fund.

\$1 billion for strategic transportation infrastructure development in the Ring of Fire region.

Transportation investments, including:

- Expanding additional segments of Highway 11/17 between Thunder Bay and Nipigon.
- Constructing a new alignment of Highway 7 between Kitchener and Guelph.
- Making improvements to Highway 401 in London and Highway 417 in Ottawa.
- Supporting the Maley Drive Extension project in Sudbury. In December 2014, the province proposed the project to the federal government for cost-sharing under the *Building Canada Fund*.
- Advancing an environmental assessment for a high-speed rail line that will connect Windsor, London, Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto.

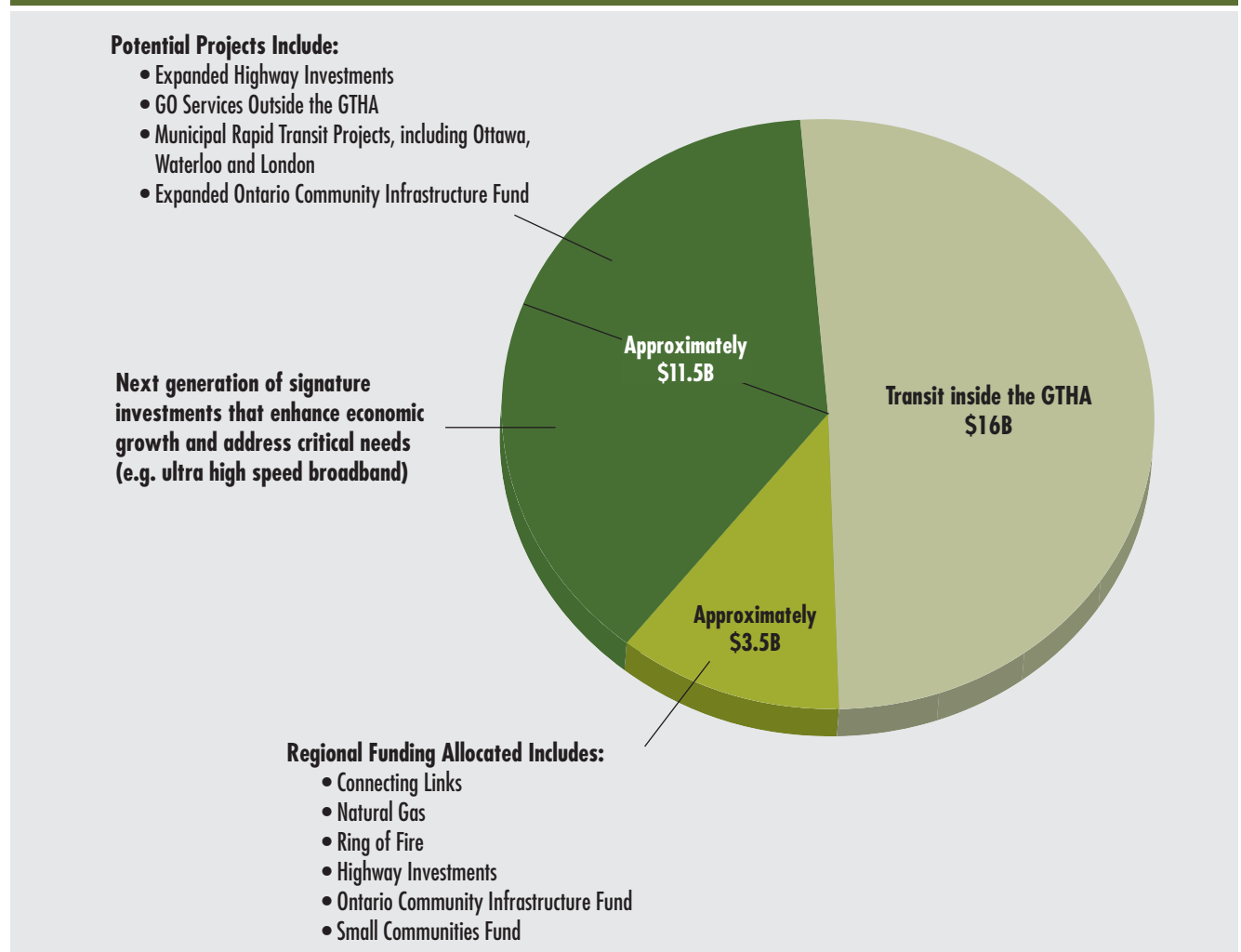
\$62 million to support the Ottawa River Action Plan.

\$15 million annually for the new Connecting Links program to help pay for the construction and repair costs of municipal roads that connect communities to provincial highways.

The remaining funds

The remaining funding of approximately \$11.5 billion for *Moving Ontario Forward – Outside the GTHA* will be allocated using a framework designed to prioritize projects that will address critical infrastructure needs and deliver the best economic, social and environmental returns. Some potential projects have already been identified. We need your input into how we design the framework so we can use your best advice to prioritize future projects.

FIGURE 3 - Moving Ontario Forward: Approximately \$15 Billion for Infrastructure Outside the GTHA

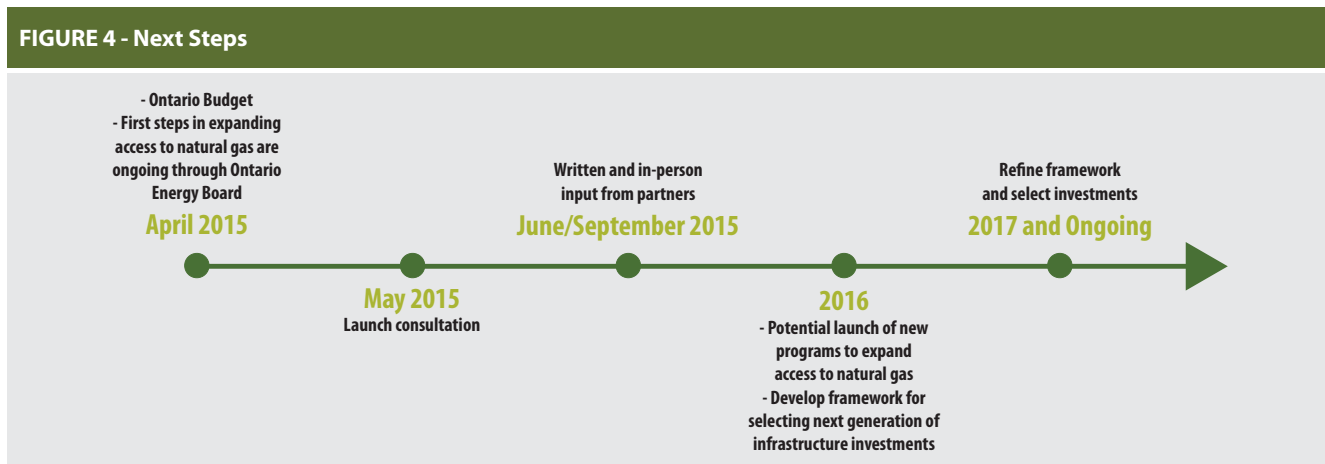


NATURAL GAS PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPMENT

Ontario has committed to creating a new Natural Gas Access Loan and a Natural Gas Economic Development Grant to help communities partner with utilities to gain access to the natural gas network. Expanding natural gas access in areas of the province that are not currently served can help attract new industry, stimulate economic growth, provide consumers with more choices, and support agricultural producers. We need your input as we design these programs.

NEXT STEPS

This discussion guide launches the consultation process. We are now focused on hearing advice from you, our partners across the province. Based on this advice, we will move towards launching the natural gas programs and developing the prioritization framework for future infrastructure investments. The illustration below outlines our path forward in the near term.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We recognize that every region has unique needs, which is why we are looking for advice from you as we develop policies and programs that reflect those needs. Based on feedback from key stakeholders and our municipal partners, we know that there is no one-size-fits-all solution for every region across the province. Each region deals with different challenges and considerations such as fiscal constraints, existing partnerships, diverse municipal profiles and the impacts of climate change.

We will consider the following guiding principles throughout the consultation process and encourage you to do the same:

<i>Collaboration</i>	<i>Evidence-Based</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key partners work together to share lessons learned for new programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select projects based on research and business case analysis. • Include asset management plans as key tools.
<i>Interconnectivity</i>	<i>Outcome Oriented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take into account the integrated nature of Ontario's regions and communities, and infrastructure itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select projects with the best outcomes; ideally with economic, social and environmental benefits.
<i>Openness to Bold Solutions</i>	<i>Regionally Focused</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider innovative solutions. One potential example: leveraging private equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base decision-making on regional priorities, rather than on a community-by-community basis.
<i>Shared Investments</i>	<i>Adaptive and Responsive</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize partners have multiple responsibilities, including financial obligations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build allowances for unforeseen financial situations or other realities. • Respond to climate change.

Discussion questions

Now it's time to start the conversation. Here are some questions to consider as you provide feedback about the development of new initiatives under *Moving Ontario Forward – Outside the GTHA*.

What should we consider when making decisions around new infrastructure program design and prioritizing future investments?

- What types of infrastructure projects could unlock tangible economic development opportunities in your communities?
- Some guiding principles are set out on the previous page. Are there others we should consider?

Background to consider:

- The full design of Ontario's infrastructure investments for *Moving Ontario Forward – Outside the GTHA* is still being developed.
- The framework will help us make sure we are addressing the most pressing infrastructure priorities in regions across the province.
- The guiding principles on the previous page could be used to develop this framework. If you have experience evaluating infrastructure priorities, please consider sharing insights from that process.
- The insights and local intelligence you provide will help us assess a diverse number of proposals. For example, would a high speed broadband project in your region support businesses and economic growth more effectively than other types of traditional infrastructure investments?

What would you like to see in our new Natural Gas programs?

- Are there tangible economic benefits or opportunities that would result if your community or region had expanded access to natural gas?
- How can we ensure the programs complement existing tools that are available to help communities access natural gas?

Background to consider:

- Access to natural gas can help stimulate the economy by attracting new industries to the province, making commercial transportation more affordable, helping our agricultural producers thrive, and providing consumers with new energy choices.
- Connections to natural gas will be maximized through a phased approach. The Ontario Energy Board has invited applications for expansion projects, including ideas for regulatory flexibility. The loan and grant programs will complement this work and target support to projects that cannot be addressed solely through existing resources, such as the Infrastructure Ontario Loan Program, or the Ontario Energy Board process.

What is the long-term future of your transportation network, and how can *Moving Ontario Forward* support that?

- What proposed transit projects would best serve and provide economic benefits to your community?
- Are there opportunities for you to work with adjacent communities to come together and develop a transit project?
- What should we consider as part of an efficient modern highway network that would best connect regions and communities?

Background to consider:

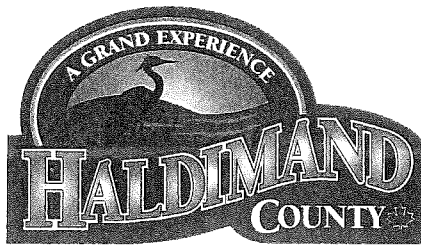
- Ontario makes transit and highway investment decisions based on business case analysis (BCA). BCA enables evidence-based evaluation and selection of projects.
- Communities should consider sharing analysis of their transit project proposals that could support/justify a decision to invest.
- Do the proposals directly support improving highway infrastructure and building a seamless transportation network?

How do I submit my input?

Your input is vital in shaping Ontario's future programs and initiatives. Thank you for taking the time to share your insights and advice. Feedback from key partners like you will help us achieve the best possible results for communities across the province.

Please submit your feedback in written form electronically or by attending one of the upcoming regional roundtables.

If submitting electronically, please send your responses using ontario.ca/infrastructureconsultation, no later than September 18, 2015.



July 10, 2015

The Honourable Charles Sousa
Minister of Finance
7 Queen's Park Crescent, 7th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

And

The Honourable Ted McMeekin
Minister of Municipal Affairs
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Dear Sirs:

RE: Vacancy Rebate Program

Please be advised that on June 22, 2015, Haldimand County Council adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS a Vacancy Rebate Program, as defined under Section 364 of The Municipal Act and Ontario Regulation 325/01, allows for property tax relief to be granted to eligible business properties when vacant for a minimum of 90 consecutive days;

AND WHEREAS Haldimand County does not believe that the Provincial legislation intended that local taxpayers bear the cost of a business/collective bargaining strategy when such "vacancy" is caused by a labour disruption, such as an employee lockout/strike;

AND WHEREAS a recent interim decision by the Assessment Review Board to allow for a vacancy tax rebate under these circumstances is precedent setting, unless overturned on appeal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs be requested to review this legislation from a public policy perspective, to ensure that businesses are not eligible for a reduced property tax burden if the claimed "vacancy" is a result of a labour disruption;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the following for their support:

- M.P.P. Toby Barrett
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (and for circulation to all member municipalities)
- City of Toronto
- Municipal Finance Officers Association
- Ontario Municipal Tax and Revenue Association
- Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers
- Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
- Ontario Federation of Labour
- Canadian Labour Congress

Should you require further information, please contact Karen General, General Manager, Corporate Services at 905-318-5932 x 6321.

Yours truly,



Evelyn Eichenbaum
Clerk

EE/tc

cc M.P.P. Toby Barrett
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
City of Toronto
Municipal Finance Officers Association
Ontario Municipal Tax and Revenue Association
Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers
Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
Ontario Federation of Labour
Canadian Labour Congress
Mark Merritt, Treasurer, Haldimand County
Karen General