



August 9, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of Canada's Premiers, I am writing to request an in-person First Ministers' Meeting dedicated to the linked priorities of competitiveness and strategic infrastructure. Premiers discussed this issue during our recent summer meeting and concluded that discussion between First Ministers would benefit Canadians.

To improve Canada's economic competitiveness, future infrastructure investments must enhance supply chains and trade corridors, build community resilience, and promote innovative infrastructure solutions for communities in many areas. As stated in our June 15, 2023 letter, provinces and territories are experiencing unprecedented cost escalations on infrastructure projects and initiatives due to supply chain issues and input costs, among other things. Stretching existing dollars to cover these costs by doing less or deferring projects is not a viable option: we need to expand and improve our infrastructure as we welcome new Canadians, address housing needs, and seek to seize other opportunities. Provinces and territories are best positioned to understand unique regional, municipal, and local infrastructure needs and we have the required expertise to deliver on Canadians' infrastructure priorities in our jurisdictions. Premiers wish to discuss directly with you how these pressures and escalations can be most effectively addressed, including the unacceptable gaps in the level of infrastructure available in Arctic and northern regions. We are also looking to minimize administrative redundancies, duplicative processes related to governance and red tape related to approvals, claims and reporting.

It is critical that we meet with you well in advance of any future announcement on the next generation of infrastructure funding to ensure this new federal program will align with the needs of our jurisdictions and will deliver timely results.

Working together on this important issue will allow us all to respond to pressing needs and improve the quality of life for Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Houston', is positioned above the printed name.

Tim Houston
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Nova Scotia

www.canadapremiers.ca/premiers-focused-on-actions-to-support-economic-growth-and-opportunities/

cc: Premiers

Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs
Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities