

Dear Mayor McCallion:

The Liberal Party shares your view that transit, infrastructure, and housing are critically important issues in this election. This is why our platform delivers a plan to deal with all three of these issues in a comprehensive way.

Our infrastructure policy has three critical elements.

First and foremost is a \$70-billion 10-year commitment to funding infrastructure in Canada. We have heard first hand from you and other mayors across the country of the \$123 billion infrastructure deficit that Canada is facing. The only way that this deficit can be addressed is if the federal government makes a significant, long term commitment to funding infrastructure. We are proud to make that commitment.

This \$70 billion commitment has a number of components. They include:

- at least \$10 billion for strategic infrastructure, particularly green infrastructure such as clean water, sewage treatment, and clean energy grids;
- at least \$8 billion for a National Transit Strategy that will enable our cities to expand their transit systems and green their transit fleets;
- at least \$3 billion for a dedicated Small Communities Fund, to ensure that all Canadians are able to see strengthened, more resilient infrastructure;
- at least \$4.5 billion for our country's gateways, corridors and borders to ensure that Canada's infrastructure facilitates, rather than hinders, our trade and tourism industries while keeping Canada safe and secure;
- at least \$3 billion for sports and recreational facilities because an active society is a healthy society and Canada must renew and expand its arenas and other leisure facilities; and
- almost \$25 billion transferred to municipalities through the gas tax transfer, which will now be indexed to nominal GDP growth.

Secondly, a Liberal government will use all unanticipated surplus funds over and above a \$3 billion contingency to fund infrastructure projects. Had this policy been in place for the last decade, more than \$75 billion would have been available to address the infrastructure deficit.

Finally, a Liberal government will create a new Infrastructure Bank that will make low-cost financing available for all orders of government that choose to borrow from it. Canadians across the country will have the opportunity to participate in the Bank's projects through the purchase of tax-free Green Bonds. This alternative form of financing will provide municipalities increased flexibility in the way they fund infrastructure projects.

Of particular note in this plan is the \$8 billion dedicated fund for transit. The Liberal Party understands that efficient, effective, and high quality public transit is critically important for the economic health of Canada, and the physical health of Canadians. Getting cars off of the road will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and will help clean our air. This \$8 billion fund will provide Canadian cities the ability to expand their transit systems, and make long term planning for capital investments.

In addition, the Liberal Party has a plan to address the housing crisis in Canada. A Liberal government will tackle the housing crisis by helping to provide for 30,000 new social housing units, and refurbishing another 30,000 existing units to make them more liveable. As part of this commitment, we will look to expand subsidies for dedicated units for low-income Canadians in federally funded co-operative housing. We will renew the Residential Rehabilitation Program and the Homelessness Partnering Initiative. And a Liberal government will help low-income families pay less on their energy bills: we will support the building and upgrading of affordable housing for low-income Canadians, to help them reduce their energy costs through high environmental standards – because every Canadian deserves to share the benefits of a greener economy.

We believe this plan will provide critical support for our municipal partners. And the Liberal Party believes now, as it has always believed, that working together we can improve the quality of life in our cities, where we live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Omar Alghabra
Liberal Candidate
Mississauga-Erindale