



Legislative Updates CANADA

Creation of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Parliamentary Taskforce

Mayors' engagement with over 40 Members of Parliament in the summer of 2020, overlapped with efforts by the Cities Initiative staff and other stakeholders, in creating a "Parliamentary Taskforce" on Great Lakes and St. Lawrence issues. This focused debate between Mayors and Ontario Members of Parliament resulted in the creation of this Taskforce in September with the mandate to explore the Government of Canada's role in the environment, economy and the society of the region. This new Parliamentary Taskforce will enable municipal governments to have regular engagement with the Federal Government on the issues facing the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.

Creation of the Safe Restart program

In the summer months prior to the Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada created a \$19 billion program, later increased by \$2 billion (to over \$21 billion total) to help the healthcare systems, provinces, municipalities and schools deal with urgent COVID-19 challenges.

Of the original \$19 billion, approximate \$3 billion was directly targeted to municipal governments with \$2 billion of general operations and \$1 billion just for transit.

This was in addition to the "early" Gas Tax Payment of \$2.2 billion the Federal Government moved forward.

To learn how the Safe Restart Program funding will be spent in your province, please see letters from each premier to the Prime Minister outlining spending.

[ONTARIO Municipalities](#) - \$1.7 billion

[QUEBEC Municipalities](#) - \$1.1 billion

How to apply for Canadian Stimulus

The \$3 billion temporary COVID-19 Resilience stream has been created to fund quick-start, short-term projects that might not otherwise be eligible under the existing funding streams.

- The flexibility to transfer up to 10 percent of original stream allocations to the new COVID-19 Resilience stream to help mobilize their remaining funds under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- An accelerated approvals process will enable provinces and territories to submit multiple projects at a time, with a single simplified application that streamlines program requirements and reduces upfront administrative burdens, to ensure that communities can start work on their projects as soon as possible.
- Up to 80 percent of the project's costs for provinces, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations in the provinces can be covered.
- Retrofits, repairs and upgrades for municipal, territorial, provincial and Indigenous buildings, health infrastructure and schools;

COVID-19 response infrastructure, including measures to support physical distancing;

- Disaster mitigation and adaptation projects, including natural infrastructure, flood and fire mitigation, and tree planting and related infrastructure.
- Active transportation infrastructure, including parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and

The stream supports near-term, quick-start projects and projects must respect the following timeframes:

- Construction must start no later than September 30, 2021; and,
- Projects must be completed by the end of 2021, or by the end of 2022 in the territories and in remote communities.
- Applicants submit their projects to the province or territory
- Province or territory prioritizes projects and submits to Infrastructure Canada
- Infrastructure Canada reviews, validates eligibility and funding and seeks ministerial approval
- Projects begin and funding flows when costs are incurred.

[Learn more](#)