



The Speech from the Throne Includes Many of the Priorities the Cities Initiative Has Advocated

Building upon the \$8.2 billion the Federal Governments and the Cities Initiative helped secure for Canadian Municipalities during the COVID-19 crisis, the Speech from the Throne included several items that Cities Initiative's Canadian members promoted to Members of Parliament and the Government. We have already engaged with over 40 Members of Parliament and Ministers on our priorities and we will continue to drive the Stimulus Water Restoration Initiative forward.

The 2020 Speech from the Throne has four pillars designed to fight COVID-19 and create one million new jobs. The four pillars are: Fighting the Pandemic and Saving Lives, Supporting People and Businesses, Building Back Better and Standing Up for Canadians.

Our efforts in the Stimulus Water Restoration Initiative has allowed us to secure a number of the Cities Initiative's priorities including:

- Creation of a new Canada Water Agency to keep our waters safe, clean, and well managed, and continue to grow Canada's ocean economy.
- Investment in reducing the impact of climate-related disasters, like floods and wildfires, to make communities safer and more resilient.
- Work with municipalities as part of a new commitment to: expand urban parks so that everyone has access to green space, find nature-based solutions to fighting climate change, and the planting of two billion trees that can be used to create new shoreline erosion infrastructure.

The Cities Initiative also worked with Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada elected officials to promote our accomplishment with Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative. This type of program was included in the Speech from the Throne by focusing on farmers, foresters and ranchers as key partners in the fight against climate change. This could further support our Phosphorus Reduction programs. We will be following up with the Government to explore this new opportunity.

The Speech from the Throne outlined programs to assist municipal governments in addressing issues within their communities such as: new funding for affordable housing, support for inclusion, business development and additional funding and programming to help fight COVID-19. To see the wide number of proposed actions in the Speech from the Throne [click here](#).

The “Building Back Better” pillar of the speech offers the most direct support for municipal governments. The Government committed to invest in all types of infrastructure, including water infrastructure, energy-efficient retrofits and clean energy.

Climate action will be a cornerstone of the Government of Canada’s plan to support and create a million jobs by:

- Investment in the reduction of the impact of climate-related disasters, like floods, erosion and wildfires, to make communities safer and more resilient;
- Bringing forward a plan to exceed Canada’s 2030 climate goal;
- Legislate Canada’s goal of net-zero emissions by 2050;
- Work with municipalities as part of a new commitment to expand urban parks, so that everyone has access to green space, and find nature-based solutions to fighting climate change, including by planting two billion trees —this program could help municipalities redesign their waterfront areas to make flood resistant green spaces;
- Creation of thousands of jobs to retrofit homes and buildings to cut energy costs for Canadian families and businesses;
- Launch of a new fund to attract investments in making zero-emissions products and cut the corporate tax rate in half for companies who create jobs to make Canada a world leader in clean technology;
- Support of investments in renewable energy and next-generation clean energy and technology solutions;
- Support of manufacturing, natural resources and the energy sector as they work to meet a net-zero future.