GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RELEASES DETAILS ON COVID-RESILIENCE STREAM OF THE INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure, yesterday announced details on the COVID-Resilience Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The new stream will bring forward 10%, or $3.3 Billion of funds committed to the multi-year product for near-term projects. CIQS is supportive of the government’s commitment to generate faster approvals—this stream of funding will see accelerated approval with lists of quick-start, short-term projects for consideration, rather than project-by-project proposals. There will be a focus on essential elements like asset class, location, description, dates and financial information.

Project scope will be limited to investments of $10 million in eligible funding, with the federal government cost-share increasing to up to 80% of funding for municipalities, provinces and up to 100% for Indigenous projects and projects in the territories.

THE STREAM WILL FUND:

- Retrofits, repairs and upgrades for provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous buildings; health infrastructure; and schools;
- COVID-19 response infrastructure, including measures to support physical distancing;
- Active transportation infrastructure, including parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and
- Disaster mitigation and adaptation projects, including natural infrastructure, flood and fire mitigation, and tree planting and related infrastructure.

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER STREAMS

Yesterday’s announcement also initiated the expansion of other ICIP streams where projects can begin before September 30th, 2021. These include for inter-commuter transit, ferry infrastructure, active transportation, rural and northern cellular/broadband projects, and energy efficiency initiatives.