



6 PRINCIPLES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The MHCA has developed 6 fundamental principles for sound investment in core infrastructure - streets, highways, bridges, land drainage, water distribution and wastewater treatment systems. We propose that infrastructure investment programs be:

✓ ***Permanent, strategic and sustained***

Infrastructure investment should be set out in a long-term plan, with predictable cost-sharing between governments

✓ ***Focused on economic growth***

Evidence shows that investment in core infrastructure has defined returns to the economy, \$1.60 for every \$1 invested (Conference Board of Canada, 2011)

✓ ***Embrace innovation***

Adopting new, better ways to build or maintain infrastructure will get more value out of the infrastructure budgets

✓ ***Harness private-sector partnerships***

The private sector is the source of ingenuity

✓ ***Funded by dedicated revenue streams***

Taxpayers must be able to follow the dollar, to know how much is invested, for what purposes

✓ ***Reviews annually***

Regular review of investment programs ensures accountability, discipline to purpose and allows for adjustment to benefit from lessons learned

THE INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGE

- City of Winnipeg is facing a \$7.4-billion infrastructure investment deficit, half of which is for transportation
- Province-wide, municipalities together face an infrastructure deficit of some \$13 billion (2009 dollars)
- Municipalities need the help of senior levels of government – they collect just 8 cents of every tax dollar
- Previous provincial administration ignored requests to assess and make public the Manitoba government's core infrastructure investment deficit
- Getting Manitoba to 'most improved jurisdiction' mark, in the face of a daunting core infrastructure deficit, requires new thinking and smarter collaboration

THE SOLUTION

- Seize public sentiment, which is onside for smart, strategic investment in core infrastructure
- Manitoba should commit to tabling its core infrastructure investment deficit to allow tracking of progress
- Adopt a long-term, strategic infrastructure investment strategy to meet both challenges and opportunities
- Negotiate a 'new fiscal deal' between Manitoba and its municipalities that balances and shares roles, revenues and responsibilities