

National Infrastructure Summit Sommet national de l'infrastructure

September 10-12 **REGINA, SK 2012** 10 au 12 septembre



City of Regina



REGINA
Infinite Horizons

National Infrastructure Summit – 2011 / 2012

- The 2011 Summit was the first organized event that brought together all three orders of government AND the private sector to discuss a single purpose – our roads, sidewalks, bridges, water, wastewater and underground pipes– “infrastructure”.
- The issue of infrastructure – in terms of planning, building, maintaining and funding – is not new; it has been discussed by all governments and communities of every size -- for decades. What is new is the spirit of collaboration between all stakeholders involved, and their commitment to innovative models and new funding approaches.
- The 2012 Summit will once again bring together local, national and international experts to speak to, and engage in, dialogue on best practices, utility models, governance, asset management and innovation.
- The 2012 Summit will move from the conceptual basis of 2011, to one of a more practical nature.



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2012 National Infrastructure Summit Features – “Under Construction”

- Themes consistent with those of 2011 NIS:
 - Defining the Need;
 - Citizen Engagement;
 - Financing the Opportunities;
 - Politics of Infrastructure; and
 - Innovation.
- New to 2012 – “Invitational Innovative Show Case” (Trade Show)
- Overall 2012 Summit Theme: “Lead by Example”
- IBM presentation on “Smart Cities”
- The 2012 Summit will allow the opportunity to move from the conceptual to the practical, where we can begin to put in place some of the 2011 concepts.

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2012 National Infrastructure Summit Feature – “Morph My City”

- **Purpose:** two competitions seeking creative ideas on how to “morph” Regina’s neighbourhoods into leading examples of 21st Century urban sustainable models.
- The competitions involve teams submitting long-term, step-by-step designs, using an undeveloped Regina green space or “canola field” and an existing neighbourhood – and morphing them into innovative, long-term financially sustainable urban neighbourhoods.
- **Goal:** submissions envision and submit a plan for a restorative city with robust economic activity, renewable energy and complex city ecosystems, without further damaging the climate and without harmful waste.
- Finalists will present their plans at the 2012 NIS before a panel of judges. Winners receive a City of Regina contract, a cash prize, and national exposure.



National Infrastructure Summit - 2011 / 2012 - Themes

Defining the Need:

- Discussion: Define the problem. What are citizens willing to pay for? What services are citizens willing to give up? Where do we go from here?
- What we Heard: The “gap” exists not only financially, but also in leadership, behaviour and culture. A National Framework is needed – in the immediate term.

Politics of Infrastructure:

- Discussion: Sources of funding: (1) taxation/levies; (2) grants; (3) debt; (4) partnerships and user levies.
- What we Heard: We must expand the revenue tool box. We must look for ways to clearly articulate infrastructure costs – and what that means to taxpayers.



National Infrastructure Summit - 2011 / 2012 - Themes

Innovation:

- Discussion: Most public infrastructure is decades – or even a century old, and often the mindset behind the design is even more archaic.
- What we Heard: It's not only about needing funding to do new things – it's also about doing what we are doing now – but doing it better. Lower cost, more sustainable ways to design neighbourhood infrastructure must be designed and implemented.

Citizen Engagement:

- Discussion: Premised on the belief that people should have, and want to have, greater influence on decisions that affect them. Is there an ideal time to engage the public? Is public engagement right for every decision?
- What we Heard: Start consultation early in the process. It is more than just asking for opinions – it is ensuring issues are framed authentically and sincerely.



National Infrastructure Summit - 2011 / 2012 - Themes

Financing the Opportunities:

- Discussion: Resources at all orders of government are scarce – it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain, upgrade, build or expand the required infrastructure.
- We need to finance “creatively” – prioritize needs, implement innovative options and consider alternative financing models.
- Who champions these paradigm shifts?
- What we heard: Over reliance on one solution is not the answer. We need to continue working on innovative options – finding a way to incent and encourage.
- If municipalities are given greater taxation authority, are we ready?
- How can we do better at creating and supporting the legislative environment that supports innovation and financing?



National Infrastructure Summit

Achievements / Outcomes

- The 2011 and 2012 Summits mark a new era in how we, as governments, and our partners in the private sector, plan, prepare fund and manage infrastructure.
- This Summit will continue to be the catalyst to engage political, bureaucratic, and industry officials to consider all aspects of infrastructure in innovative and unique ways.
- Discussions that will pave the way to reduce and eliminate the infrastructure gap over a 20 year period ... with solid planning and funding models.
- The Summits pave the way to preparing Canadian municipalities to be competitive, modern, thriving and sustainable 21st Century communities.

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