

## News Release



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Engineers applaud province's investment in infrastructure

**TORONTO, March 23, 2007** – The voice of Ontario's 68,000 professional engineers applauded the announcement of continued funding for infrastructure in Thursday's provincial budget. Ontario's 2007 budget pledges \$5.9 billion in infrastructure investments in 2007-08 for transit, highways, hospitals, schools, colleges, universities and rural infrastructure.

"We asked the provincial government to honour their infrastructure funding commitments, and they have," said Daniel J. Young, P.Eng., President and Chair of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE). During pre-budget consultations, OSPE strongly encouraged the Provincial Government to fulfill its funding commitments through ongoing infrastructure investment.

"The government has told Ontarians that infrastructure is its top priority. We are at a critical time as our transit, highways, hospitals, schools, sewage and water systems are in need of desperate updating and repair. It is vital for all Ontarians that the government has made this commitment to ensure that the security of these essential services is not compromised," said Mr. Young.

OSPE recommends that the government streamline their approval process with various government agencies to ensure that they can act quickly to implement its infrastructure projects and appoint an infrastructure ombudsman or task force to work with stakeholders to resolve issues or roadblocks that may arise as a result of the increased infrastructure development. By fast-tracking the approval process and proactively addressing issues that arise, the government will reduce costs incurred by delays to projects.

In terms of modernizing government operations, OSPE was disappointed that no mention was made of alternative government procurement options, such as qualifications-based selection a process adopted by many US states. "We continue to wonder why the provincial government is averse to saving taxpayer dollars," said Mr. Young, who explained that basing contract awards on qualifications, rather than price, has been demonstrated to result in lower contract administration costs, faster project completion, and more efficient use of resources, specifically higher government productivity and lower operating costs.

OSPE appreciates the Liberal Government's understanding of the critical need for infrastructure spending. Ontario's engineers offer their extensive expertise and training, along with their duty to protect the public welfare to the government as they work to

implement their infrastructure initiatives so that Ontario taxpayers receive the best value for their money.

The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) is the voice of the engineering profession in Ontario. For more information about OSPE, please visit [www.ospe.on.ca](http://www.ospe.on.ca).

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