

Integrated Bilateral Agreements

As of May 8, 2018, the federal government has signed integrated bilateral agreements with five provinces and all three territories. Throughout the design of the second phase of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan (ICIP), FCM has advocated at the federal level for core elements of the agreements, including:

- A full and fair federal and provincial/territorial **cost share**.
- A **fair balance** of municipal and provincial/territorial projects.
- Key program design features that **recognize differences in capacity** among municipalities.

More specifically, the agreements to date include the following provisions:

- A requirement that there be a minimum 33 per cent provincial cost share, along with a 40 per cent federal share in most streams. The rural and northern stream will have a maximum 50 per cent federal share under the rural and northern fund, except for communities under 5000, which will be eligible for a 60 per cent federal share.
- Requirement that provincial and territorial governments ensure that the projects submitted for Canada's approval represent a fair balance of municipal and territorial projects.
- Requirement that the three-year infrastructure plan, and subsequent annual updates, submitted by provinces and territories to Canada include a section describing its approach to ensuring that a fair balance of municipal and territorial projects are submitted for Canada's approval.
- Recognition of the unique needs of rural communities through **streamlined reporting requirements** and increased federal cost share.

What's next?

If your province or territory has signed an integrated bilateral agreement, the time is now to ensure the implementation of the framework rolls out successfully. The next few months will be critical to ensuring the efficient and effective implementation of the agreements. Below are some key steps that may be helpful to share with your association members and others.

1. **Read the integrated bilateral agreement between your province/territory and the federal government to understand the federal and provincial/territorial obligations.**
 - Visit the [INFC website](#) to find your relevant agreement:
 - [Canada – British Columbia](#)
 - [Canada – Alberta](#)
 - [Canada – Northwest Territories](#)
 - [Canada – Ontario](#)
 - [Canada – Nunavut](#)
 - [Canada – New Brunswick](#)



- [Canada – Nova Scotia](#)
 - [Canada – Yukon](#)
2. **Confirm how your province or territory is approaching its cost-share.** As a result of FCM's advocacy, the federal government has stated that provinces must contribute a minimum of 33 per cent cost share. All provincial agreements signed to date contain that commitment, with 25 per cent territorial share maintained in the territories. This is a big step forward, but how that is implemented may vary depending on the funding stream and province. The next few months are an important opportunity to push to ensure that provinces and territories provide a full and fair contribution toward important priorities.
3. **The federal government is requiring provincial and territorial governments to develop three-year infrastructure plans, to be updated annually.** These plans must include:
- A section that describes the province or territory's approach to and priorities for the infrastructure investments, including selected targets from the list of targets and indicators provided by the federal government;
 - How the province or territory intends to ensure that a balance of municipal and provincial projects are submitted for federal approval;
 - How the province or territory is developing its community employment benefit targets;
 - A section that identifies the projects that the province or territory intends to submit for approval to the federal government – including both projects that are ready to be submitted, and those identified that may be submitted in the future; and
 - An attestation from the province or territory that the federal funding is not displacing any provincial/territorial or municipal infrastructure spending.

To find out more about the process for developing the plan in your province or territory, and to be ready to provide input, you can:

- Contact your relevant provincial or territorial ministry to find out more about the process they intend to use to seek municipal input.
- Work with your members to encourage them to identify priority projects now.

All municipalities should be considering which projects they want to advance.

4. **Learn about your province or territories' project approval process and the federal project approval process, including the expected timelines.** Be aware of provincial and territorial and federal service standards for project approvals. You can find Infrastructure Canada's service standards [here](#).
5. **Know your options for project funding.** The Investing in Canada infrastructure plan includes several funding streams that your municipalities may be eligible for. For example, water and wastewater funding may be available through the Green



Infrastructure stream, but also through the Rural and Northern Communities' Fund, if you are a rural municipality.

- 6. If you are finding it difficult to get needed information, please contact FCM.** As the implementation of the agreements moves forward, FCM will continue to engage with Infrastructure Canada to convey any issues that municipalities are facing as we work toward our shared goal of strengthening communities of all sizes through these unprecedented infrastructure investments.

For those provinces that have yet to sign their integrated bilateral agreements, FCM is here to assist PTAs in any necessary engagement with the federal government. Please do not hesitate to contact Outreach and Engagement Advisor Jarrah Hodge at jhodge@fcm.ca.

