



Issue Update

CCA News Release
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PARLIAMENTARY VOTE ON A DEDICATED GAS TAX MARKS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME, SAYS CANADIAN CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 8, 2003

OTTAWA – The Canadian Construction Association (CCA) today thanked Members of Parliament who yesterday voted in favour of a motion tabled by Canadian Alliance Member of Parliament James Moore that read as follows: *“That, in the opinion of the House, the government should initiate immediate discussions with the provinces and territories to provide municipalities with a portion of the federal gas tax.”* The final vote on the motion, was 202 in favour to 31 against. The Bloc Quebecois voted against this motion, with all other parties voting in favour.

By dedicating a portion of the existing federal fuel excise tax to municipalities to fund municipal and transportation-related infrastructure, the federal government would ensure a long-term, stable, reliable source of funding for Canada’s grossly underfunded infrastructure requirements. Last night’s vote by the House of Commons, and in particular, the favourable vote by members of the Liberal Party caucus, indicates that there is wide support at the federal level and within government for moving forward with such a program.

“This vote sends a strong message that a federal dedicated gas tax is an idea whose time has come,” stated Michael Atkinson, President of the Canadian Construction Association. “However, in its discussions with other orders of government, the federal government must insure that both municipal infrastructure AND the National Highway System are eligible for funding, especially when one considers the importance between upgraded highways and the ability of municipalities to compete in a global economy.”

“We look forward to working with a future Paul Martin government as the process of implementing a federal dedicated fuel tax begins in earnest,” added Jeff Morrison, Executive Director of The Road and Infrastructure Program Canada (TRIP Canada), the lobbying arm of CCA. “With Paul Martin having already publicly supported the notion of a dedicated gas tax, we expect that the implementation process will begin fairly quickly once he assumes leadership of the Liberal Party.”

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