

# CANADIAN COMPETITIVENESS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

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## KEY MESSAGES

- Canada's reputation as a destination for investment in infrastructure projects has worsened relative to our peers (G7 Nations + Australia) in recent years. This declining reputation appears to be primarily driven by regulatory and bureaucratic delays.
- Canada's federal infrastructure policies and funding programs are inconsistent and unreliable. Policies change, and programs are cancelled and replaced, frequently based on short-term political cycles rather than longer term strategic priorities.
- Reliance on PPPs (public-private partnerships) to bolster infrastructure investment may well prove fruitless given the negative experiences Canada's peers have had with PPPs and the already evident frustrations with Canada's existing pursuits in this area.
- Canada has some of the world's largest pension-funds investing in infrastructure projects, but the projects are primarily non-Canadian. More must be done to encourage and entice Canadian pension funds to invest in domestic infrastructure projects.
- The federal government should place a higher priority on infrastructure investments in critical areas such as trade and transportation infrastructure. Government investments and policies must be made with a long-term focus and must be based on an integrated and strategic approach including coordination with provincial, municipal and First Nations governments and the private sector.