International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
2018 Pre Budget Submission

Executive Summary

Through the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan*, the Government of Canada has made historic investments in building new and updating existing infrastructure across the country. Many of these investments are geared towards improving both mobility and livability in Canada, ultimately helping Canadians be more productive in their workplaces and communities. A significant portion of this funding - $21.9 billion - has been set aside for green infrastructure, which will improve Canada's competitiveness among global counterparts who are working to reduce their environmental footprint. Supporting green infrastructure also frees up capital for governments, organizations and businesses to invest in other areas, as there are energy and cost-savings generated by making buildings more efficient.

Ultimately, infrastructure is only as good as its construction and maintenance. Now that these investments have been budgeted, it is important to protect them by adopting measures which extend the lifespan of these developments. These investments can also be protected by ensuring that work is carried out by skilled and properly trained professionals who make sure things are completed right the first time.

Commercial and industrial painters directly support the sustainability of infrastructure through the application of protective coatings on major structures that are essential to prevent corrosion. Glaziers improve the efficiency of buildings by selecting and installing the most advanced energy efficient window systems, ultimately reducing the carbon footprint of those structures. These skilled tradespeople represent a growing green trade which can contribute to Canada's green economy and environmental objectives.

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), which represents over 100,000 men and women in North America who work in the Finishing Trades - are ready to support Canada's infrastructure investments and put their skilled tradespeople to work.

For Budget 2018, IUPAT respectfully submits the following four recommendations for consideration:

1) Work across departments to adopt requirements that improve the longevity and resilience of federal infrastructure projects, specifically with respect to application of protective coatings;
2) Work across departments to formally recognize the NACE13/ACS 1 (or equivalent) standard for coating applications, and mandate that painting and glazing work on federal

infrastructure projects is completed by tradespeople who have obtained certification under this standard (or an equivalent).

3) Support green trades like painting and glazing by providing resources for union-based apprenticeship training; and,
4) Work with all levels of government to ensure that federally-supported infrastructure projects observe and enforce the 1:1 journeymen to apprentice ratio. Resources may be required to ensure this enforcement occurs.

Improving Infrastructure Safety and Resiliency through Paints and Coating

The Government of Canada has made a substantial, long-term commitment to invest in public infrastructure. As decision-makers determine which infrastructure projects will proceed, implementing measures to extend the useful life of public infrastructure investments is critical.

When it comes to projects in which steel and concrete are the foundational building materials, special attention must be paid to the major culprit in infrastructure deterioration – corrosion. Experience has shown that damage to infrastructure caused by corrosion can be costly in terms of human life, can harm the environment, and can disrupt economic activity.

Case Study: The Consequences (and Cost) of Corrosion

Pipeline failures are rare in Canada. However, when they do occur, they can have many causes, including construction damage, overpressure, and joint issues. But, according to the National Energy Board, the primary cause of rupture on the pipelines they regulate is corrosion. According to a 2016 study conducted by the National Association of Corrosion Engineers International (NACE International), the world's leading authority on corrosion control, the global cost of corrosion is estimated to be $3.13 trillion CAD, the equivalent of 3.4 per cent of global GDP. The cost of corrosion to Canada alone is estimated to be $2.29 billion CAD. Moreover, NACE International has found that by using available corrosion control practices, savings of up to 35 per cent of the cost of corrosion could be realized, representing over $1 trillion CAD in global savings.

Steps can be taken to fight the dangerous effects of corrosion on infrastructure. Principle among these is the application of protective coatings to properly prepared steel and other substrates to help protect them from a corrosive environment. Requiring these types of coatings from the outset of major procurements will go a long way to improving their lifespan, and preventing tragedies that arise from failing to address corrosion.

Recommendation #1: That Finance Canada work across departments (including Public Services and Procurement Canada and Infrastructure Canada) to adopt requirements that

improve the longevity and resilience of federal infrastructure projects, specifically with respect to application of protective coatings.

Formally Recognizing the Value of Qualified, Certified Painters and Glaziers

The IUPAT takes pride in offering state of the art facilities for apprenticeship education, skills upgrading and health and safety training in eight Training Centres across Canada.

We believe that protective coatings must be correctly applied by skilled tradespeople having appropriate training and certification. Hiring skilled and trained workers to complete these projects ensures that this work is done correctly the first time.

For several years, the IUPAT has worked closely with the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) and the Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC) to develop an industry standard to show competency in both surface preparation and application of corrosion prevention systems. This third-party standard - known as NACE13/ACS1 - stipulates both the quality of work, and the qualifications needed to work successfully in the painting and coating industry.

Using this standard as guidance, NACE and SSPC have developed a designation known as a Coating Application Specialist (CAS). The CAS designation represents a significant development towards ensuring those combatting corrosion on the front lines – our members – are trained to the highest standard. CAS-designated workers are required to have at least 3,000 hours of experience in abrasive blasting and spraying industrial coatings, and must then pass a comprehensive written test and two practical examinations. Once he or she earns this certification, a Coating Application Specialist will specialize in corrosion mitigation of steel and concrete used in, for example, public utility facilities, bridges, pipelines, and shipping vessels.

With infrastructure as a significant government priority, IUPAT has worked hard to expose both our workers and decision-makers to this third-party standard, and the extensive training required by our workers to ensure quality outcomes on infrastructure projects. The Government of Canada could take a significant step forward in supporting the skilled trades by enshrining this third-party standard into bid specifications on federal infrastructure work, and requiring that only workers who possess the Coating Application Specialist designation (or a recognized equivalent) work on these projects.

Recommendation #2: Work across departments to formally recognize the NACE13/ACS 1 (or equivalent) standard for coating applications, and mandate that painting and glazing work on federal infrastructure projects is completed by tradespeople who have obtained certification under this standard (or an equivalent).

Enabling a Green Economy through Union Based Training and Apprenticeship Support

Support for the painting and coating industry helps advance green jobs and the green economy. Glazing is a growing trade in many European countries because of the environmental and energy efficiency benefits associated with low-E window systems. We feel there is equal potential to grow this industry in Canada and help the Canadian government achieve its climate change objectives.

Case Study: Going Green with Glazing

For the interim House of Commons chamber, an independent grid structure was built of all-Canadian steel to support the triple-glazed infill roof. In addition to being glazed to ensure efficiency, the roof and ceiling structure must be responsive to debating and exterior noise mitigation, light control, and ensure it is naturally lit without impairing TV operations.

Support for union-based training can help our industry scale up to meet the demands of the green economy. We have been very pleased to see advancements made in supporting union-based apprenticeship training, which will assist IUPAT in delivering a trained workforce for several years to come. It is our hope that this support continues in years ahead.

IUPAT also applauds the steps taken by the Government of Canada to institute a 1:1 journeyman to apprenticeship ratio, which ensures young apprentices get the hands-on guidance they need to become truly successful in their trade of choice. Our experience on the ground indicates that while some employers respect this new rule that is not the case across the board. To this end, we would suggest that the federal government work across all levels of government to ensure that, where federal infrastructure dollars have been provided, employers are compliant with this important rule. It should be noted that resources may be required in order to bring about this enforcement.

Recommendation #4: Continue to support green trades like painting and glazing by providing resources for union-based apprenticeship training

Recommendation #5: Work with all levels of government to ensure that federally-supported infrastructure projects observe and enforce the 1:1 journeymen to apprentice ratio. Resources may be required to ensure this enforcement occurs.