



**ACEC-NB urges parties to commit to a long-term infrastructure plan beyond the election cycle**

*Infrastructure is vital to New Brunswick's economic, social and environmental quality of life*

**(New Brunswick) September 15, 2014** – While several parties have made statements in support of infrastructure investment in the New Brunswick election, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – New Brunswick (ACEC-NB) urges all parties to commit to a long-term infrastructure plan that addresses the current state of existing infrastructure and strategically plans beyond that of an election cycle.

ACEC-NB would like to re-emphasize the important role governments play in delivering valuable infrastructure assets to the people and province of New Brunswick. ACEC-NB is aware of the existing financial constraints in New Brunswick. It is also mindful that much work has to be done to bring the province back to a fiscally stable condition.

“Infrastructure is an investment – not an expense. Together with all candidates, we share the desire to make New Brunswick an attractive place for our youth, families and our businesses,” says Christy Cunningham, P.Geo., ACEC-NB President. “Continuing to maintain and update infrastructure in New Brunswick is a direct investment into the economic, social and environmental prosperity of this province.”

ACEC-NB supports the New Brunswick Auditor General's recommendation that an extensive asset management system through long-term planning be developed to deal with the maintenance and upkeep of current infrastructure assets. This may also require making unpopular decisions on some assets. The longer we neglect existing infrastructure, the more it will cost taxpayers to replace these assets.

“Several parties have made financial pledges to infrastructure development over a shorter period of time. While this is a start, it is not sufficient if we are going to continue to maintain and operate existing assets well into the future, a plan needs to go beyond a four year cycle,” says Cunningham.

ACEC-NB is committed to working with all parties and its stakeholders in delivering infrastructure that continues to ensure a safe and high quality of life for all *New Brunswickers*, while providing the best value for investment to taxpayers.

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*The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies- New Brunswick (ACEC-NB) represents engineering companies in New Brunswick that provide professional engineering services and expertise to the public and private sector.*

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