

Minister of Transport,  
Infrastructure and Communities



Ministre des Transports,  
de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

11 APR 2007

Ms. Mary Anderson  
President  
Canadian Association of  
Importers and Exporters Inc.  
1618-438 University Avenue  
PO Box 60  
Toronto ON M5G 2K8

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your correspondence of March 1, 2007, to the Honourable James Flaherty, Minister of Finance, regarding infrastructure enhancements at borders and ports.

I appreciate being informed of the concerns of the Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters Inc., and am pleased to provide the following information in response to your comments pertaining to infrastructure. As you correctly note, Canada is a trading nation, and strategic investments in highways and other transportation infrastructure are required to improve our economic competitiveness in the global marketplace and the safety of all road users.

As you may be aware, in Budget 2007, the federal government has committed more than \$16 billion in new funding over seven years, bringing federal support for infrastructure under a new long-term plan to a total of \$33 billion. This historic investment will be used to support Canada's economic competitiveness and the quality of life of Canadians, through projects such as investments in gateways and border crossings. Budget 2007 also increases the total federal investment in the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative to \$1 billion to ensure that Canada can take advantage of economic opportunities in Asia. Finally, Budget 2007 renews the government's commitment to construct a new border crossing at Windsor-Detroit.

The core National Highway System and border crossings will be key funding priorities. As well, the government is considering how the new funding could be used to address the priorities identified in the Council of the Federation's report *Looking to the Future: A Plan for Investing in Canada's Transportation System*. This report envisages a multimodal approach aimed at integrating the transportation system.

I should also note that, as part of the federal government's approach to restoring fiscal balance in Canada, Transport, Infrastructure and Communities officials have consulted with the provinces, territories and other partners on a long-term approach to the federal role in infrastructure funding and to seek input on the terms and conditions for the new funding programs. The feedback received will help the department improve the new programs and assist in prioritizing infrastructure funding. The department expects to obtain policy and program authority for the funds announced in the coming months.

The federal government will continue to work with other levels of government and road safety partner organizations to ensure a safer and more efficient transportation system for all Canadians. Again, thank you for writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence Cannon".

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.

c.c. The Honourable James M. Flaherty, P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable Stockwell Day, P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable David Emerson, P.C., M.P.  
Ms. Diane Ablonczy, M.P.