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**WYNNE BUDGET RISES TO THE OCCASION, NEEDS HOUSE SUPPORT:
BUILDING TRADES**

(Toronto, ON) "Today's provincial budget is good news for construction businesses, workers, and their families," said Patrick Dillon, Business Manager of the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario. "The \$35 billion infrastructure commitment over the next 3 years will help sustain 100,000 jobs each year, and we are pleased to see that infrastructure investments for 2013/14 are projected at over \$13 billion. This signifies a strong commitment to our industry."

The budget also contains balanced provisions to generate new revenue tools for province-wide highway expansions and public transit, which, according to Dillon, is "a good start, as we need to look at workable revenue streams that will relieve traffic congestion and get people moving." Transportation infrastructure accounts for 43 percent of total infrastructure investments in Ontario.

"The real challenge will be to ensure that as projects get underway, underemployed Ontarians have opportunities to participate and succeed in the infrastructure economy," noted Dillon, adding that "we must work with business and government to attract more youth, Aboriginals, and women to the trades, and to make sure that they receive the best training possible."

"Proposed changes to Ontario Works will also start to lift people out of poverty, as they will be able to save more of their hard-earned money which will help elevate them towards Ontario's middle-class," observed Dillon.

Other budget highlights include measures to eliminate the \$9.8 billion deficit by 2017/18, efforts to close tax loopholes, and securing funds to support youth employment. "Overall, this is a progressive budget with concrete measures that will continue to spur economic growth and strengthen Ontario's workforce."

"In the last provincial election, Ontario chose to have a minority government looking for results for people. This budget produces those results and I would encourage all three political parties to live up to the expectations of Ontarians," concluded Dillon.

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The Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario represents 150,000 trades workers throughout the province. For more information, please contact Patrick Dillon:

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