



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CANADA'S CONSTRUCTION ECONOMISTS CALL FOR URGENT REFORMS IN THE FACE OF THE AFFORDABILITY AND HOUSING CRISIS**

**OCTOBER 23, 2023 (OTTAWA, ON)** – Canada's construction economists are calling attention to oversights by the federal government, highlighting the pressing need for reforms to address the mounting housing affordability crisis.

The Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (CIQS), who represents Professional Quantity Surveyors (PQS) and Construction Estimators Certified (CEC), points to the federal government's gaps in ensuring Canada's future infrastructure adheres to contemporary, cost-efficient, and eco-friendly standards. Construction Economists believe that deficiencies stem from the government's limited engagement with industry professionals skilled in evaluating the effectiveness and sustainability of upcoming construction initiatives.

This sentiment is further echoed by the government's delayed enactment of the Federal Prompt Payment for Construction Work Act which was green-lit in 2019. The act, designed to ensure timely payments to contractors and subcontractors, is crucial in upholding financial stability and fostering mutual trust in the construction ecosystem.

Sheila Lennon, CAE, Chief Executive Officer of CIQS, said, "While the federal government has pledged over \$20 billion towards Green infrastructure initiatives, they must also guarantee the cost-effectiveness of these projects and a net-zero focus for future Canadian infrastructure. The expertise of construction economists is pivotal in bridging this developmental gap."

Engaging PQS and CECs, Canada's construction economists can aid the government by integrating enhanced analysis, risk evaluation, and cost forecasting into the federal planning and acquisition processes.

"Our role is crucial in optimizing developers' time, funds, and resources," said Tammy Stockley, PQS(F) and CIQS Vice Chair. "Investments should assure costs and deliver maximum value to taxpayers. Now, as the focus shifts to major public infrastructure projects, Canadians deserve to see their tax money's worth. We stand ready to bolster climate resilience, emissions reduction, economic greening, and the creation of quality middle-class employment opportunities."

Canada's construction industry stands as the cornerstone of our nation's economy, contributing to over 7% of the GDP. This vibrant industry offers over 1.5 million Canadians and their families robust employment opportunities, with one in every 13 Canadian workers drawing their livelihood from it.

-30-

*The Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (CIQS) was founded and registered under the Dominion of Canada Act in November 1959. It currently represents over 2,000 national and industry professionals. CIQS works on behalf of its members to promote the profession to the construction industry, its allied professions and government officials.*

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

*Alexandra Parliament*

*Director, Marketing & Communications*

[marketing@ciqs.org](mailto:marketing@ciqs.org) | 647-505-5964