



Regional Infrastructure Sustainability Exchange (RISE)

SHARED VISION. SUSTAINABLE STANDARDS. SMARTER INFRASTRUCTURE.

Across Canada, municipalities are under increasing pressure to deliver infrastructure that is sustainable, long-lasting, climate-resilient, and fiscally responsible. Many have invested in asset management systems — but too often, these systems aren't integrated into real-time decision-making.

Municipal teams report gaps between planning and design, inconsistent QA/QC enforcement, and missed opportunities when funding windows open. At the same time, regional collaboration remains limited, despite facing nearly identical challenges.

RISE is a collaborative platform for municipalities, technical experts, and agencies to co-develop the next generation of infrastructure strategy. Through facilitated workshops, technical sprints, and targeted working groups, participants work side-by-side to:

- Align on shared measures for sustainability, service life, and performance
- Develop harmonized technical guidance and practical design strategies
- Strengthen QA/QC practices and field-level execution
- Share data, lessons, and real-world solutions across jurisdictions
- Build internal capacity and grant readiness to respond quickly and confidently

While specific goals may vary from one municipality to the next, a shared method of measurement and ongoing benchmarking enables communities to track progress, learn from each other, and accelerate improvement.

RISE isn't a static report or pilot — it's a **living exchange** of knowledge and implementation. It meets municipalities where they are and helps move them toward where they want to be.

RISE Outcomes

- **Regional sustainability frameworks** tailored for infrastructure delivery and lifecycle assessment
 - **Shared specifications and best-practice design guidance** reflecting current best practices and innovation
 - **Tools and resources** that support local decision-making and risk reduction
 - **Stronger QA/QC processes and tools** tailored for practical and enforceable use across multiple jurisdictions
 - **A collaborative ecosystem** that helps municipalities move further, faster, and with confidence
 - **A library** of adaptable resources, templates, and decision-support tools
 - **Peer-reviewed solutions** and co-developed pilot strategies
 - **Proactive funding readiness plans** — making municipalities shovel ready, future ready, and funding ready
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RISE is developing a **Readiness Framework** to help municipalities:

- Anticipate infrastructure funding windows and align internal capital plans
- Map designs and decisions to grant criteria — from FCM to provincial programs
- Package projects for fast-tracked approvals with shared language and expectations
- Build resilience and sustainability into project scoping from the outset

Shovel Ready.
Future Ready.
Funding Ready

This framework is a key outcome of RISE, providing municipalities with the tools and foresight needed to act swiftly when opportunities arise — with clear priorities, credible data, and cross-validated strategies ready to go.

Why It Matters

- **Reduces duplication** and resource strain for municipalities with limited internal capacity, building a professional network for isolated or understaffed teams and offering peer support and collaboration in real time
- **Improves consistency** across municipal boundaries, allowing planners, designers, and project delivery teams to move faster with shared expectations and clearly defined standards
- **Promotes regional knowledge**-sharing and reduces risk from repeating past mistakes
- **Creates a centralized approach** to monitoring performance, identifying issues and mitigations, and capturing shared knowledge and success stories
- **Streamlines project delivery** through aligned standards, enabling greater automation in design and accelerating approvals
- **Enables proactive decision-making** by giving infrastructure leaders direct access to actionable information — without waiting for static end-of-year reports
- **Accelerates implementation** of sustainable practices with real-world validation
- **Creates a legacy** of technical knowledge that can be reused, improved, and scaled
- **Enables communities to be ready** to build wisely when funding becomes available
- **Demonstrates regional alignment and shared outcomes** that are often rewarded with higher levels of grant funding

Join the First Wave

RISE is currently onboarding municipal collaborators, infrastructure agencies, and technical advisors for its first regional working groups. If your community wants to build better — together — we invite you to be part of the launch.

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