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Attention News Editors:

Toronto should use provincial money to fund infrastructure

TORONTO, Oct. 31 /CNW/ - This morning, at a Canadian Urban Institute session, Dr. Enid Slack, with the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance, said infrastructure, from water pipes to transit, should be the first place The City of Toronto invests new money from the McGuinty government. "The area (infrastructure) is screaming out for investment."

Mayor David Miller announced earlier today that the Ontario government will relieve the province's cities of responsibility for welfare costs beginning in 2010 - a deal that will be worth \$1.5 billion per year by 2018.

Mayor Miller was already considering adding \$1 billion to the city's capital budget to deal with infrastructure - but it would have been borrowed.

Aleem Kanji, senior policy advisor at the Toronto Board of Trade (TBOT) told ReNew Canada, the infrastructure renewal magazine, "This is an opportunity to address the infrastructure deficit through these savings."

Christine Raissis, City of Toronto, agrees. "A time (like this) when economics are faltering is a good time to invest in infrastructure."

For further information: Mira Shenker, (416) 444-5842 ext. 113,
mira@actualmedia.ca