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Ontario Science Centre Modernization Business Case

Infrastructure Ontario (IO) released a business case for the relocation of the Ontario Science Centre, examining the government's original vision to bring science-based programming to the heart of the city. With the partnership and participation of other government ministries, the Ontario Science Centre's leadership and various third-party experts, the business case was prepared to help assess and identify the costs and options for relocating the Ontario Science Centre to Ontario Place.



Background

The third-party assessment conducted by Pinchin Limited determined that the existing Ontario Science Centre facility requires significant capital investments. The facility is more than 50 years old and would require a minimum capital investment of at least \$478 million to help repair and replace the outdated infrastructure.

Relocating the Ontario Science Centre to a new facility, including to Ontario Place, has been considered by various governments dating back to before Ontario Place was closed in 2012. Each review reached a similar conclusion that there were several benefits (including cost savings) through the construction of a new Ontario Science Centre facility.

IO's Business Case

Infrastructure Ontario developed a business case to evaluate two options for the future of the Ontario Science Centre, including:

- Relocate to Ontario Place a new, more efficient facility with new exhibits and modernized programs.
- Remain at the current site and address capital repairs, refresh public areas and exhibits at the current site.

The business case considered previous reviews and enlisted the expertise of Ernst & Young to ensure the findings were comprehensive and applied best practices for the analysis. IO also enlisted the expertise of Lord Cultural Resources, who provided cultural advisory services relating to the development of a new Science Centre at Ontario Place, including functional program, costs (operational and capital requirements), attendance projections and science centre trends.

IO consulted a range of stakeholders in the development of the business case including the Mayor of Toronto and City Manager at the time of the analysis, as well as representatives of the Ontario Science Centre's leadership team.

Business Case Key Findings

The results of the business case analysis include:

1. The total capital investment required to remain at the Don Mills site exceeds the cost of constructing a new Ontario Science Centre facility at Ontario Place.
2. Relocating the Ontario Science Centre to Ontario Place will save taxpayers \$257 million over a 50-year period when compared to remaining at the current site.
3. Ontario Science Centre relocation, and modernization can be a single capital investment that will benefit two government priorities:
 - ensuring continued operations and long-term viability of the Ontario Science Centre; and
 - up to one million people will visit the brand-new facility every year, bringing new science-based educational programming to the heart of the city, while saving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars in the process.

Summary

The Ontario Science Centre business case confirms the cost benefits to Ontario taxpayers, as well as the benefits of having a brand-new facility at Ontario Place. The relocation will save Ontario taxpayers \$257 million over a 50-year period when compared to remaining at the current site. Relocating the Ontario Science Centre to Ontario Place will continue to inspire generations of young people towards the jobs of the future, as part of an iconic, all-season destination for up to six million annually, at Ontario Place.



For more information visit our website or contact us at info@infrastructureontario.ca