

# Roadmap to Transform the Canadian Construction Industry

through Industrialized Construction,  
Research and Innovation

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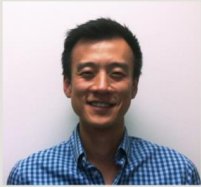


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# Project team



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# WHAT NRC DOES



**WE ADVANCE  
SCIENTIFIC  
AND TECHNICAL  
KNOWLEDGE**

**WE SUPPORT  
GOVERNMENT  
POLICY  
OBJECTIVES**

**WE SUPPORT  
BUSINESS  
INNOVATION**



# 14 Research Centres

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

- Digital Technologies

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

- Advanced Electronics and Photonics
- Herzberg Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Metrology
- Nanotechnology
- Security and Disruptive Technologies

## ENGINEERING

- **Construction**
- Energy, Mining and Environment
- Ocean, Coastal and River Engineering

## LIFE SCIENCES

- Aquatic and Crop Resource Development
- Human Health Therapeutics
- Medical Devices

## TRANSPORTATION AND MANUFACTURING

- Aerospace
- Automotive and Surface Transportation



# NRC Platform to Decarbonize the Construction Sector at Scale

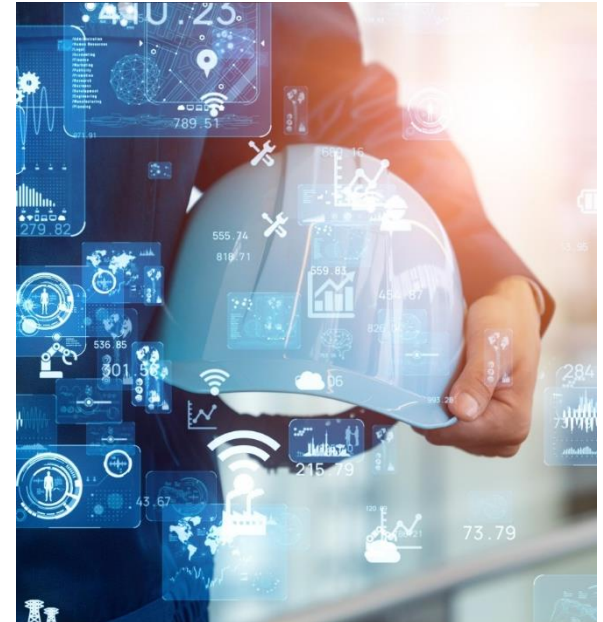
## NRC Platform's 3 Research Programs

1. Low Carbon Regulatory Framework
2. Low Carbon Built Environment
3. **Construction Sector Digitalization and Productivity (CSDP)**
  - **3 Main Themes**

Performance-based regulation  
R&D

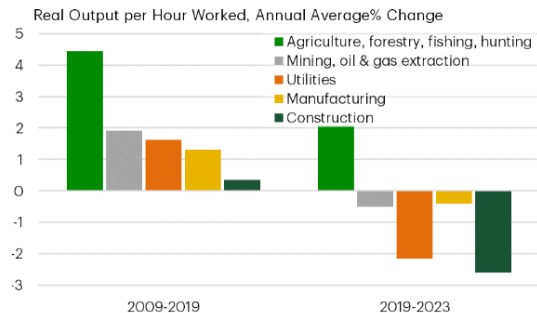
Digitalization of the construction  
value chain (BIM, ISO 19650)

Advanced Construction  
Practices (Industrialized  
construction, robotics, AI,  
3DPC)

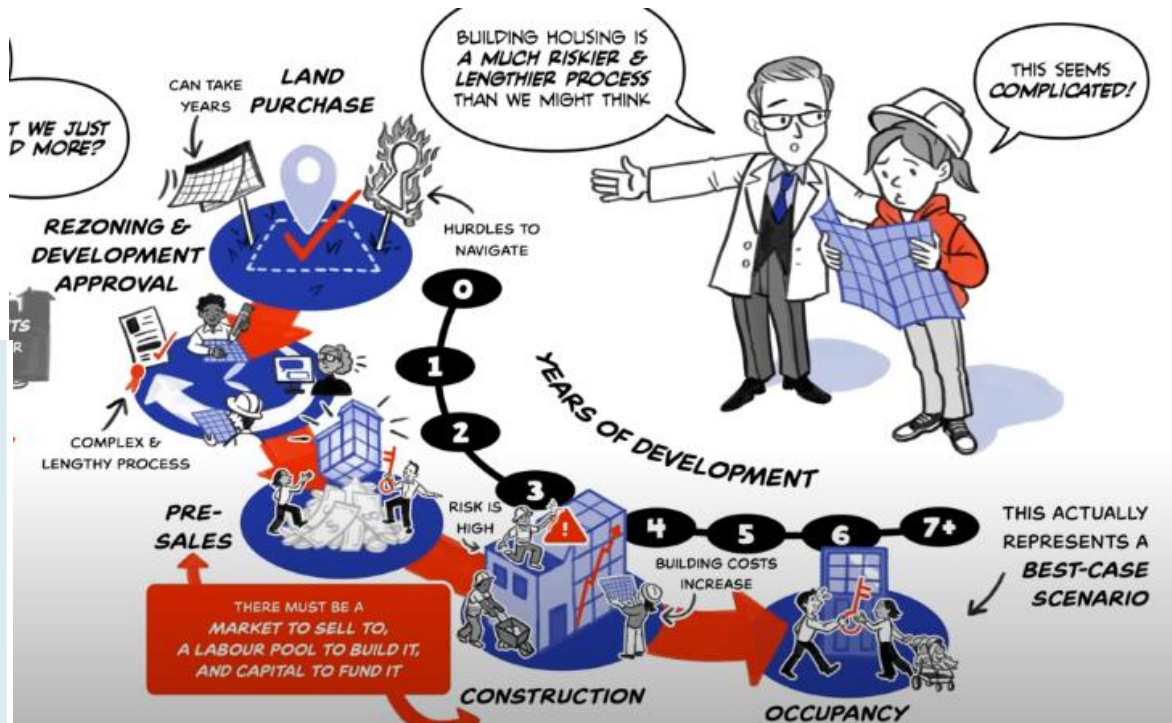
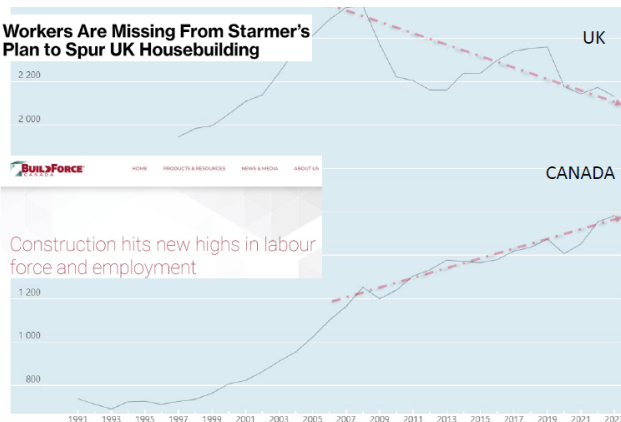


# CSDP Program Rationale

**Chart 3: Construction Has Seen Biggest Decline in Labour Productivity**



**Workers Are Missing From Starmer's Plan to Spur UK Housebuilding**



# Program Rationale

## Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS)

### Occupations showing moderate or strong signs of shortage conditions

72100 Machinists and machining and tooling inspectors; 72102 Sheet metal workers; 72104 Structural metal and platework fabricators and fitters; 72106 Welders and related machine operators; 72200 Electricians (except industrial and power system); 72201 Industrial electricians; 72300 Plumbers; 72302 Gas fitters; **72310 Carpenters**; 72311 Cabinetmakers; 72320 Bricklayers; 72400 Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics; **72401 Heavy-duty equipment mechanics**; **72402 Heating, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics**; 72404 Aircraft mechanics and aircraft inspectors; 72410 Automotive service technicians, truck and bus mechanics and mechanical repairers; 72411 Auto body collision, refinishing and glass technicians and damage repair estimators; **72422 Electrical mechanics**; 72600 Air pilots, flight engineers and flying instructors; 72999 Other technical trades and related occupations; 73100 Concrete finishers; 73110 Roofers and shinglers; 73112 Painters and decorators (except interior decorators); 73113 Floor covering installers; 73300 Transport truck drivers; 73301 Bus drivers, subway operators and other transit operators; 75110 Construction trades helpers and labourers

### occupations expected to face risks of shortage conditions (2024-2033)

70010 Construction managers; 70011 Home building and renovation managers; 72100 Machinists and machining and tooling inspectors; 72102 Sheet metal workers; 72106 Welders and related machine operators; 72200 Electricians (except industrial and power system); 72201 Industrial electricians; 72300 Plumbers; 72302 Gas fitters; **72310 Carpenters**; 72311 Cabinetmakers; 72320 Bricklayers; 72400 Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics; **72401 Heavy-duty equipment mechanics**; **72402 Heating, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics**; 72404 Aircraft mechanics and aircraft inspectors; 72410 Automotive service technicians, truck and bus mechanics and mechanical repairers; 72422 Electrical mechanics; 72501 Water well drillers; **72600 Air pilots, flight engineers and flying instructors**; 72999 Other technical trades and related occupations; 73100 Concrete finishers; 73110 Roofers and shinglers; 73112 Painters and decorators (except interior decorators); 73113 Floor covering installers; 73300 Transport truck drivers; 74201 Water transport deck and engine room crew; 75110 Construction trades helpers and labourers

FIGURE 10:  
CHANGES IN THE CONSTRUCTION LABOUR FORCE, CANADA



# Advanced Construction Practices (ACP) Rationale

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- What is the overarching vision or goal of the ACP Theme?

Identify and Reduce barriers to accelerated adoption of ACP (off-site construction, robotics, additive construction)

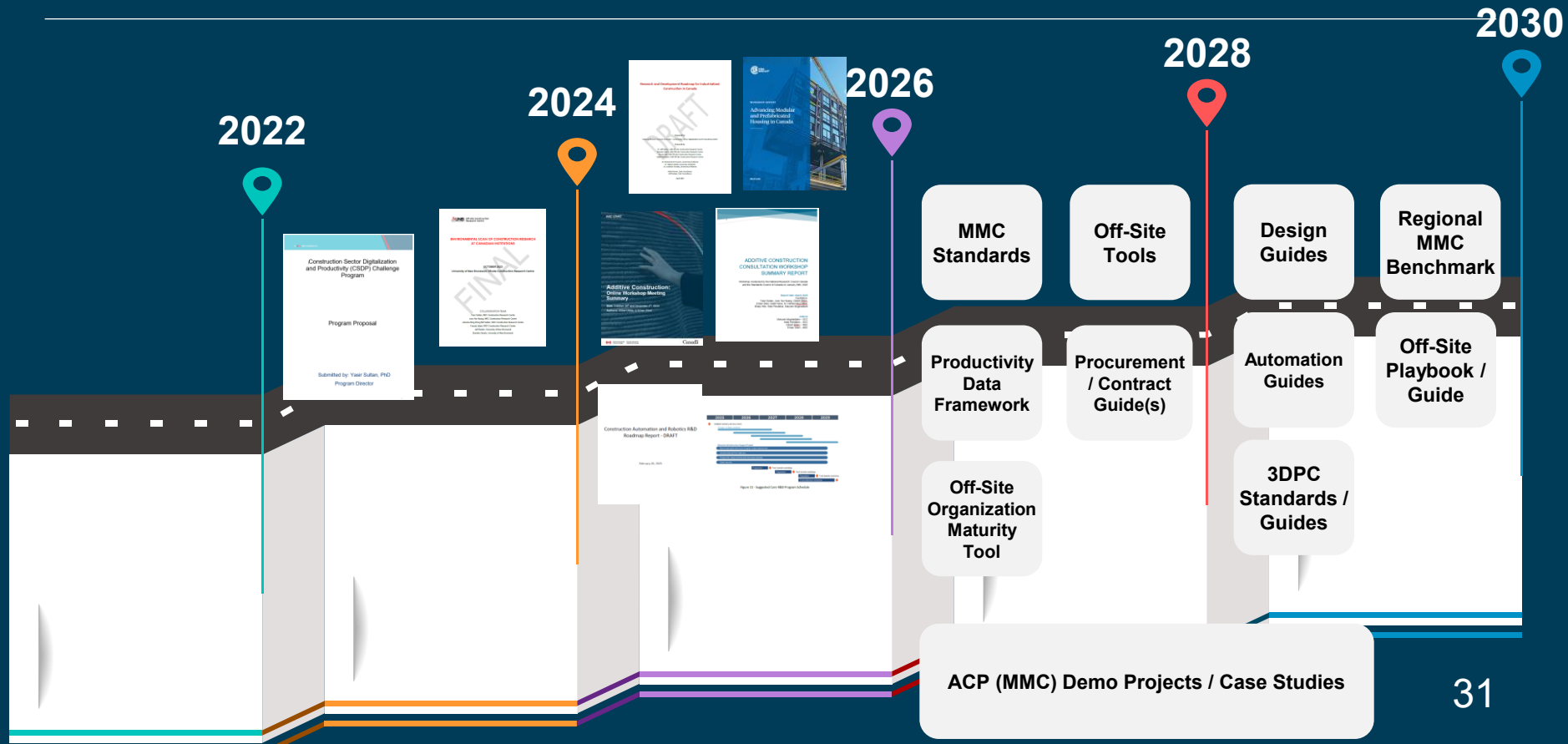
Opportunity to improve efficiency and productivity while alleviating labour shortages in key construction trades and value chain

How do we start?

Advanced Construction  
Practices (Industrialized  
construction, robotics, AI,  
3DPC)

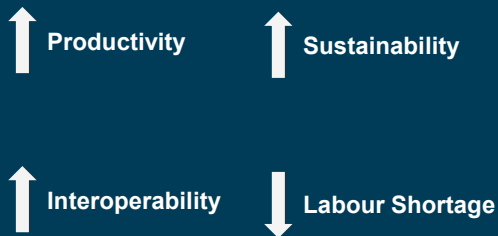


## Where We Are and What's Next



# How to Get Involved

What do we look for?



For more information, please contact:

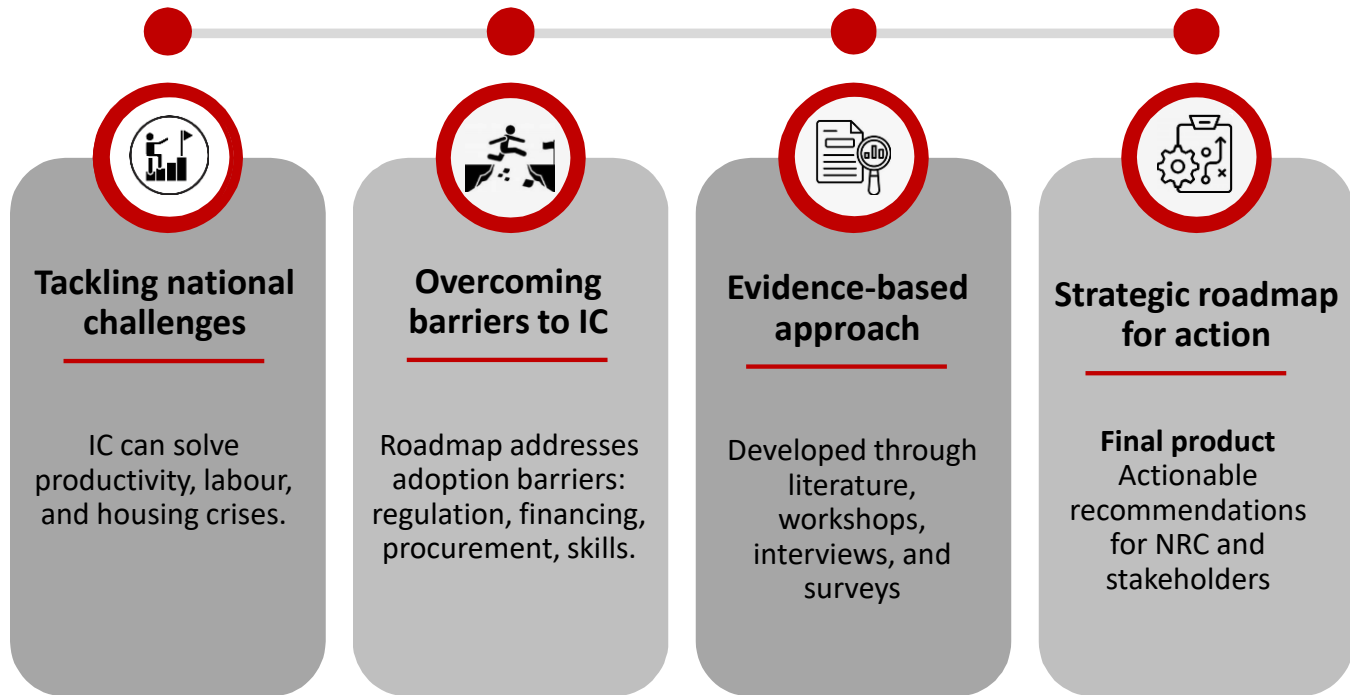
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Joon Ha Hwang (ACP Lead) – [joonha.hwang@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca](mailto:joonha.hwang@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca)

MP-7	Establishing foundation for ACP adoption
MP-8	Construction digitalization and productivity framework and benchmark
MP-9	Optimizing the factory-built value chain

We welcome questions or feedback in any format or forum

# Unlocking Canada's construction potential with Industrialized Construction (IC)



# Objectives and scope

## Project goals and strategic scope

1

Understand IC barriers and develop a national strategy

2

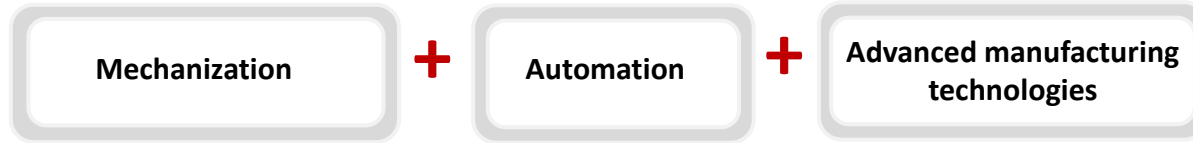
Engage stakeholders from public and private sectors

3

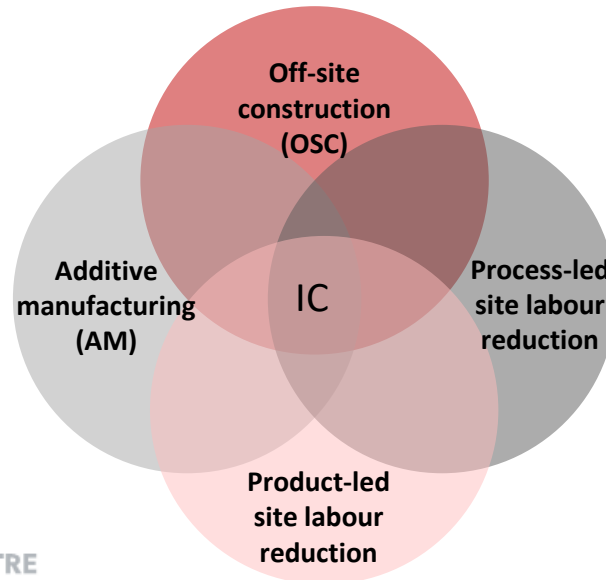
Deliver an industry-informed roadmap for adoption and R&D priorities

# What is Industrialized Construction (IC)?

A transformative shift in the construction industry, aiming to significantly increase productivity.

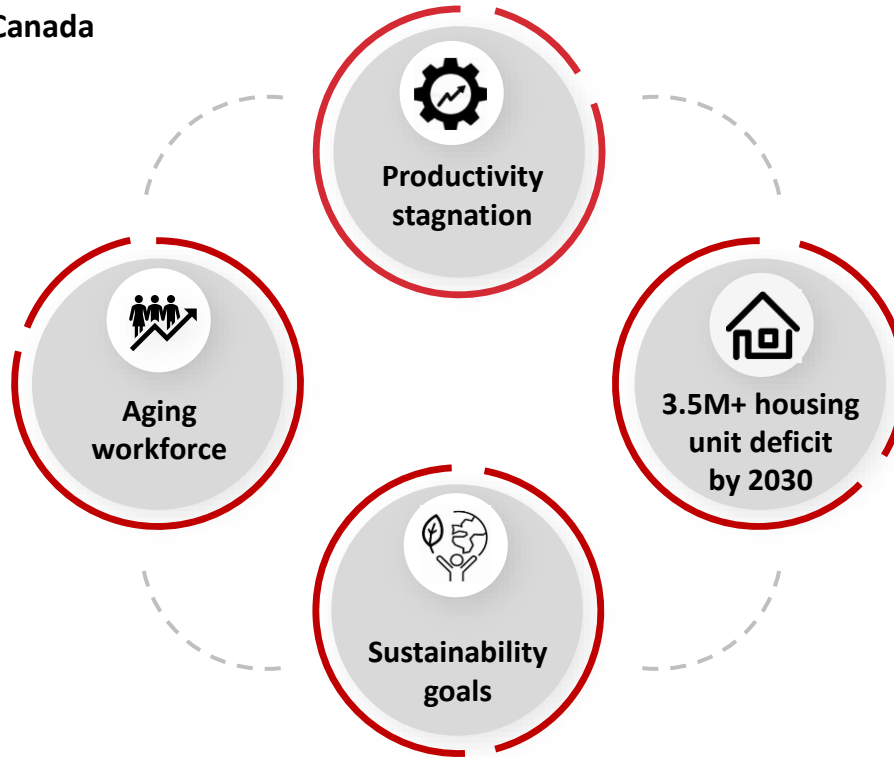


## Interrelated domains of IC

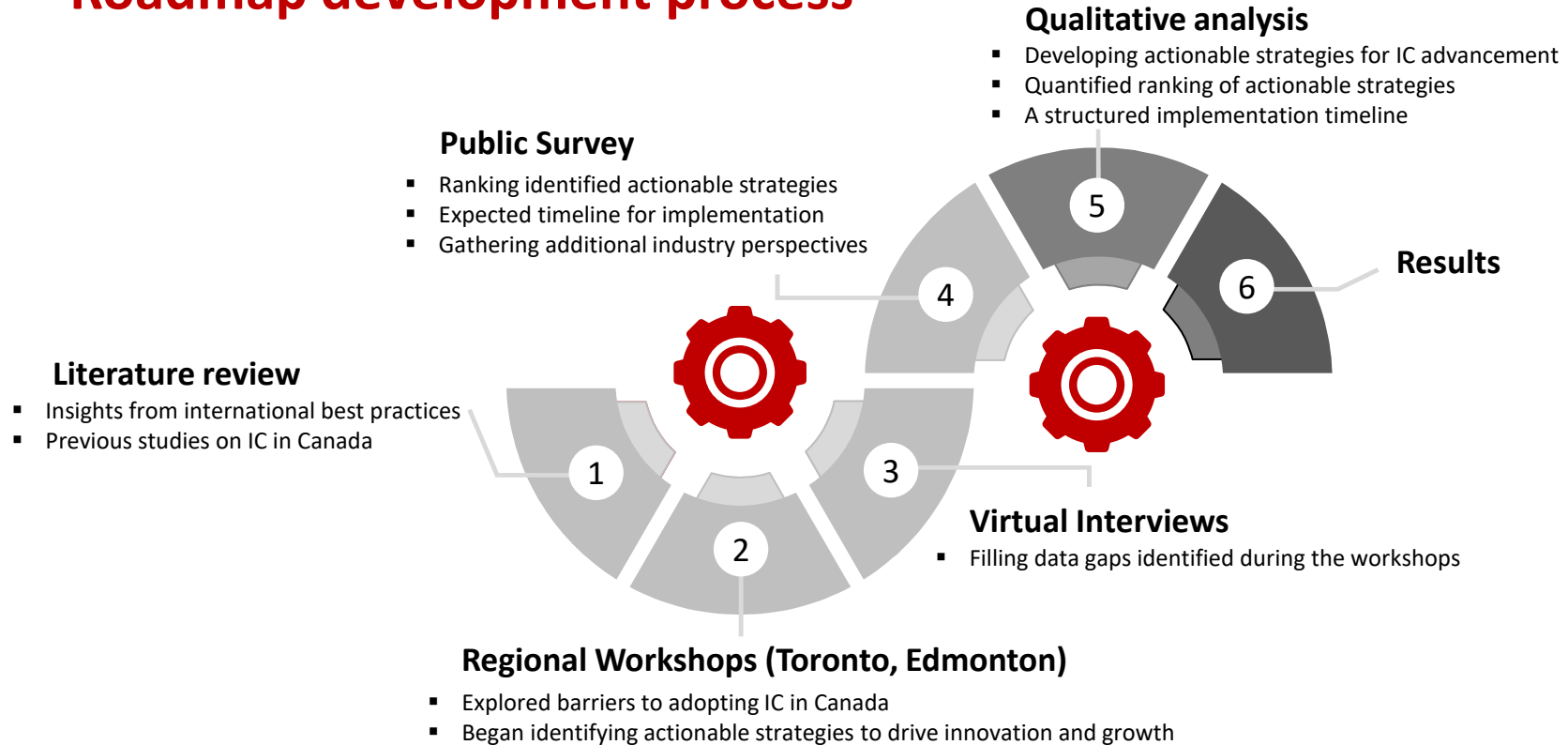


# Why IC is critical now?

## Drivers of IC Adoption in Canada



# Roadmap development process



# Global best practices

## Global Lessons in IC

- National MMC framework adopted
- £11.5B funding for OSC
- Strong cross-sector collaboration

- Policy-driven modular growth
- Financial and technical incentives
- Advanced BIM integration

- National OSC research roadmap
- Emphasis on pilot projects
- Strong government–industry links



Ireland

- Mandated OSC in public housing
- €1B+ industry investment
- Supportive government programs



UK

- Fast-track modular approvals
- BIM for design accuracy
- Seismic-resilient systems



NZ



China

- 84% homes built off-site
- Green codes + sustainability focus
- Vertically integrated builders



Sweden



USA

- 15% of homes modular-built
- Flexible company-led regulation
- High automation + customization



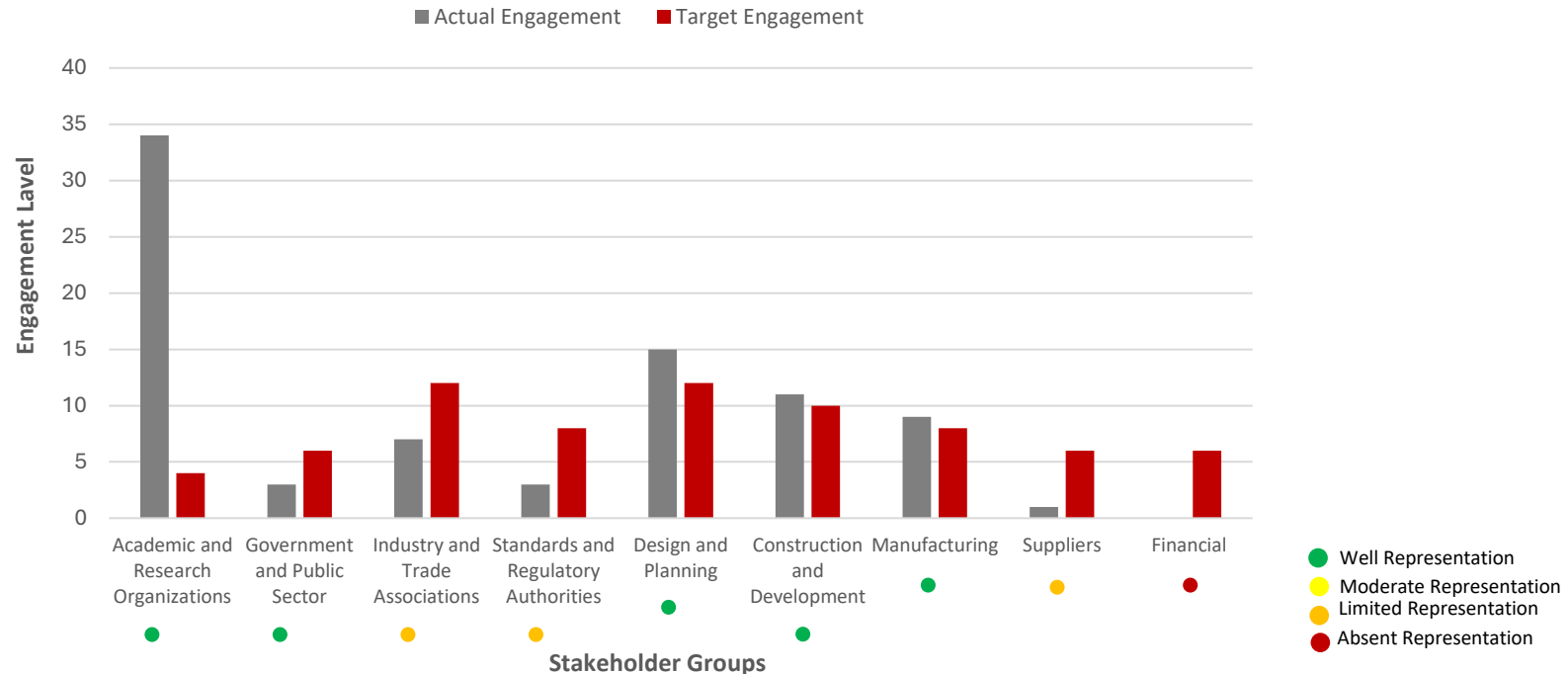
Japan



# Stakeholder engagement

## Industry participation and inclusiveness

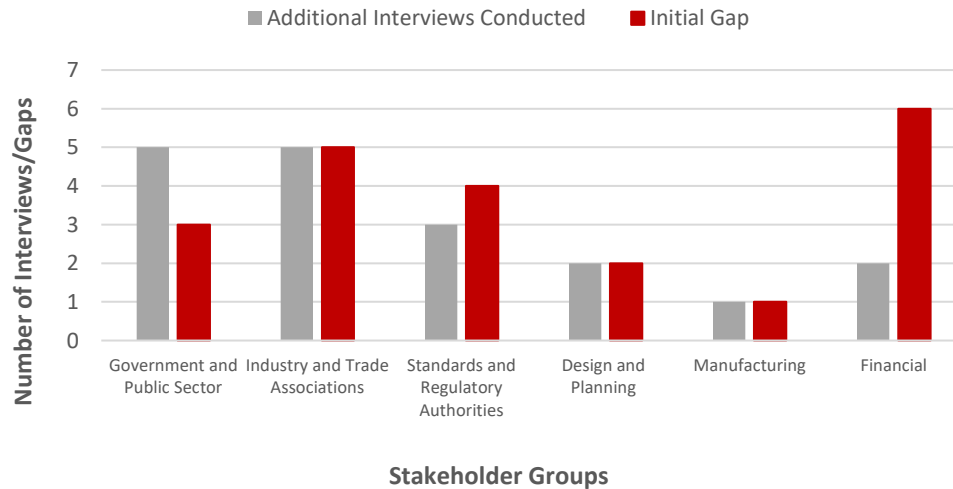
workshop participants



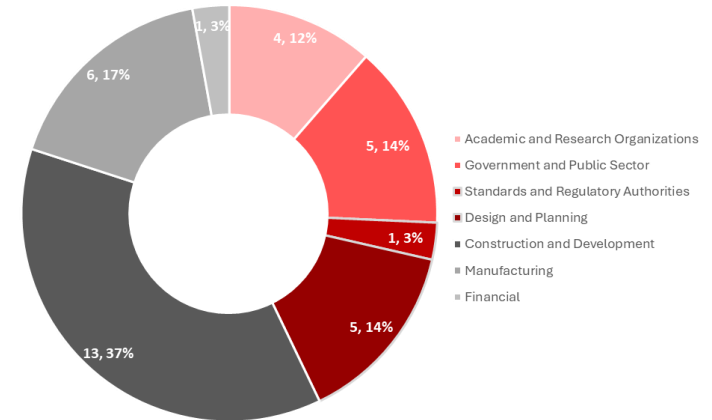
# Stakeholder engagement

## Industry participation and inclusiveness

Virtual interview participants

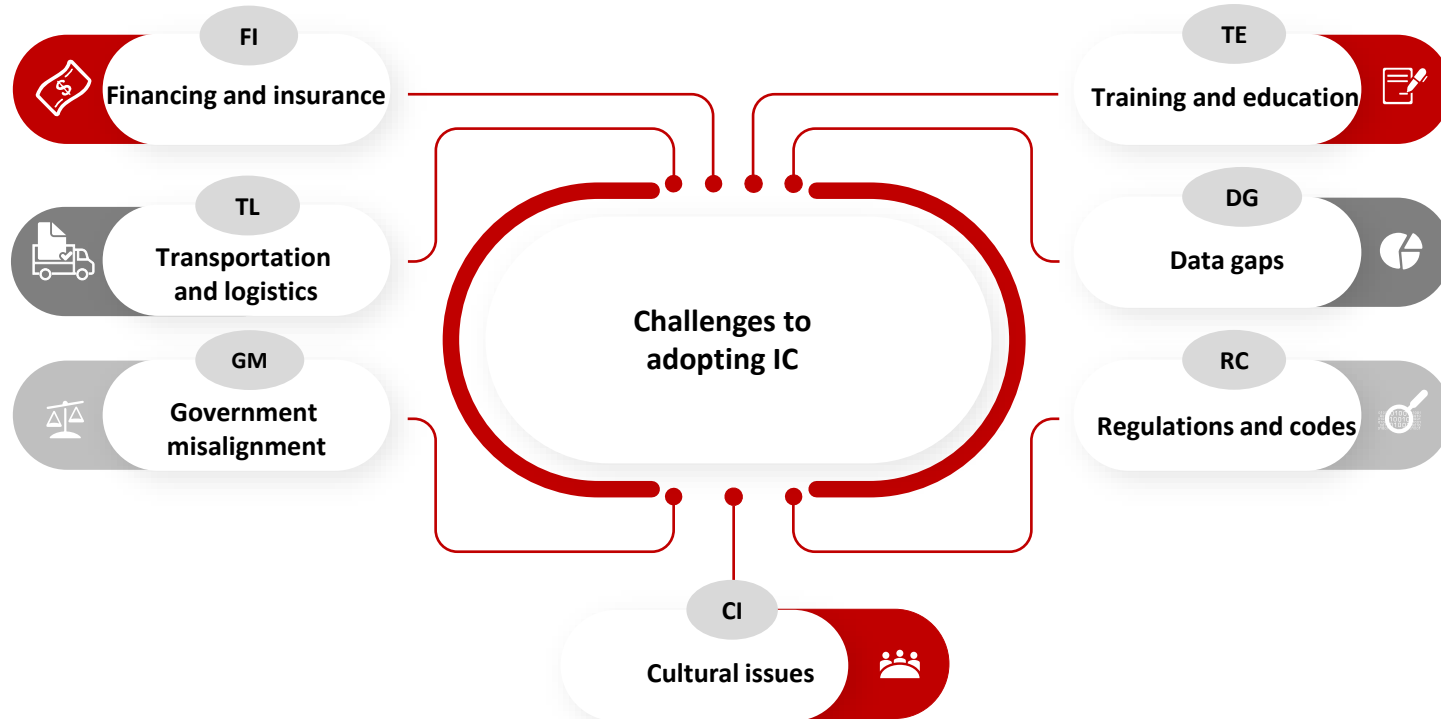


Public survey respondents



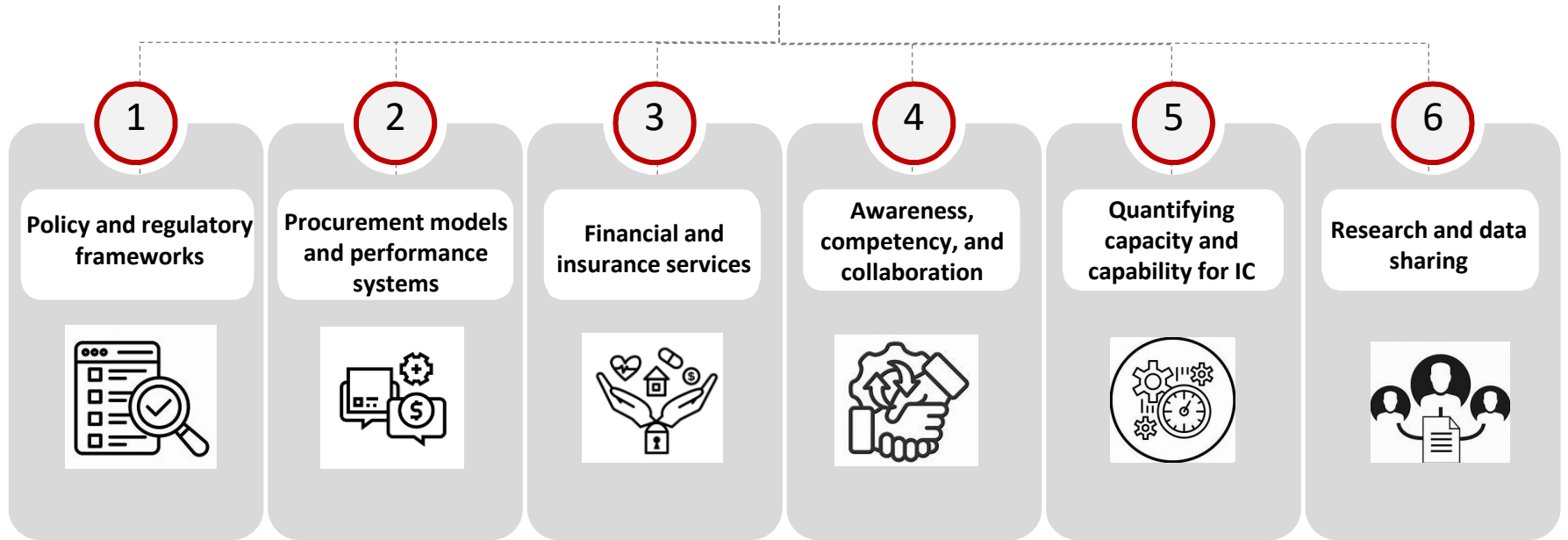
# Canada's IC barriers

## Challenges Facing IC Adoption (Insights from stakeholder engagements)



# Focus areas for action

## Strategic focus areas in the roadmap



# Initiatives for advancing IC

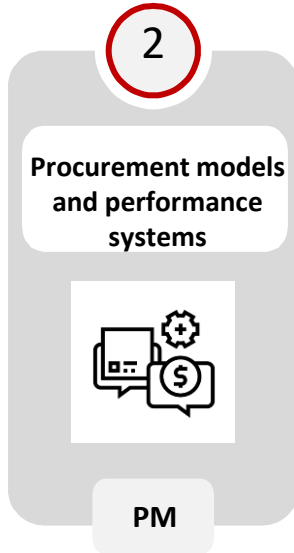


- **PR1** Simplify, improve, and harmonize the approval process
- **PR2** Undertake a policy review and harmonize project funding through collaborative procurement tied to incentives
- **PR3** Identify inefficiencies in codes and policies (flexible codes)
- **PR4** Alignment of municipalities and the three tiers of governments
- **PR5** Continuity in government policy

## Addressed IC Challenges

- Government misalignment
- Regulations and codes

# Initiatives for advancing IC



- **PM1** Develop collaborative procurement models and methods to quantify value of IC (e.g., quantifying pre-manufactured value (PMV)) and incorporate in the procurement process.
- **PM2** Improve language in contracts and procurement (RFPs)
- **PM3** Work with the Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) and key industry experts to develop or modify contracts for IC

## Addressed IC Challenges

- Transportation and logistics
- Financing and insurance

# Initiatives for advancing IC

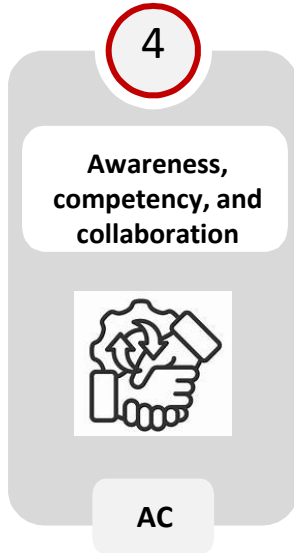


- **FI1** Government underwriting of lending against IC
- **FI2** Deleveraging risk by tax incentives that drive R&D
- **FI3** More flexible R&D funding
- **FI4** Structured financial solutions supported by financial institutions
- **FI5** Create a best practice template proforma document specific to IC for developers
- **FI6** Conduct key case studies to identify drawbacks and understand gaps in the insurance products for IC

## Addressed IC Challenges

- Financing and insurance

# Initiatives for advancing IC



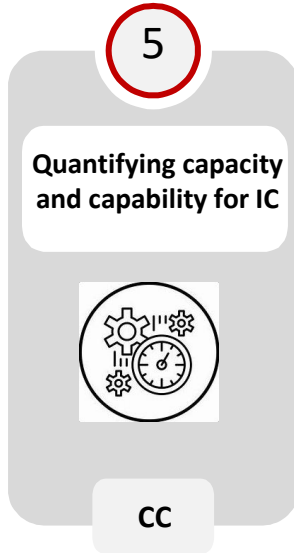
- **AC1** Launch an awareness campaign
- **AC2** Address competency gaps and IC opportunities
- **AC3** Standardize DfMA collaboration

## Addressed IC Challenges

- Cultural issues
- Training and education



# Initiatives for advancing IC

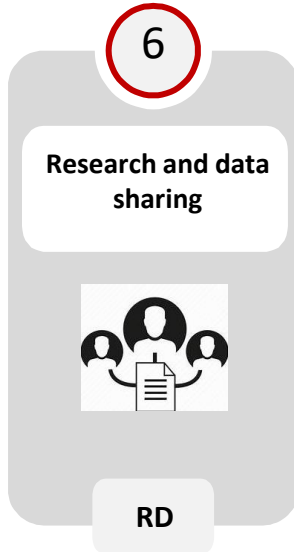


- **CC1** Quantify and highlight the labour benefit of IC (specific to Canada's climate and geography)
- **CC2** Clear picture of off-site solutions available and quantify capability
- **CC3** Incentivize and support IC with a focus on driving IC demand that aligns with capacity and capability

## Addressed IC Challenges

- Cultural issues
- Training and education
- Data gaps

# Initiatives for advancing IC

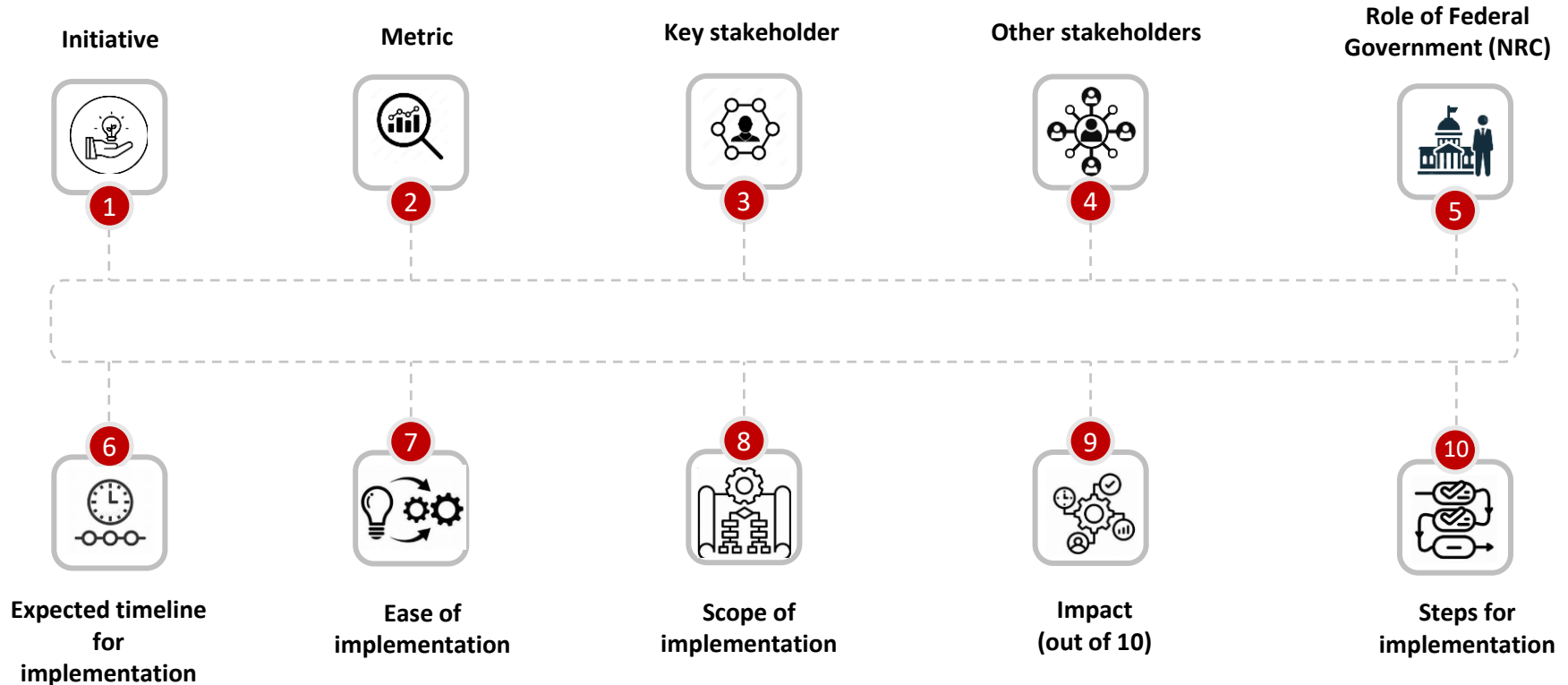


- **RD1** R&D focus on methodologies and tools for industry data capture and sharing
- **RD2** Develop a premanufactured value toolkit for Canada to demonstrate the commercial/financial benefits to owners and lenders

## Addressed IC Challenges

- Data gaps
- Regulations and codes

# Key actions and implementation strategies



# Key actions and implementation strategies

1

Policy and regulatory frameworks



PR

- **PR1** Simplify, improve, and harmonize the approval process
- **PR2** Undertake a policy review and harmonize project funding through collaborative procurement tied to incentives
- **PR3** Identify inefficiencies in codes and policies (flexible codes)
- **PR4** Alignment of municipalities and the three tiers of governments
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## Addressed IC Challenges

- Government misalignment
- Regulations and codes

# Key actions and implementation strategies



## Policy and regulatory frameworks

**PR1**

### Initiative

Simplify, Improve, and Harmonize the Approval Process



## Stakeholders

### Key Stakeholder(s)

Regulatory and code authorities

### Other Stakeholders

Government and public sector  
Construction and development sectors  
Design and planning departments  
Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)



## Role of Federal Government (NRC)

Work with innovative jurisdictions to create a pilot R&D study and streamline codes.



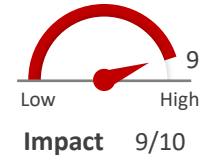
## Timeline and implementation

### Expected timeline

2028

### Ease of implementation

Difficult



## Metrics

- % Reduction in approval time from permit application to building occupancy
- # No. of jurisdictions adopting streamlined approvals



## Scope of implementation

### IC Focus Area

All levels of IC

### Location

Local & regional



## Steps for implementation

1. Conduct regulatory comparisons through regional pilots.
2. Develop standardized approval process model framework.
3. Pilot testing implementation.
4. Develop IC certification program.

### Prerequisite initiative (s)

PR3 – PM3 – RD1

# Timeline and impact level of strategic initiatives

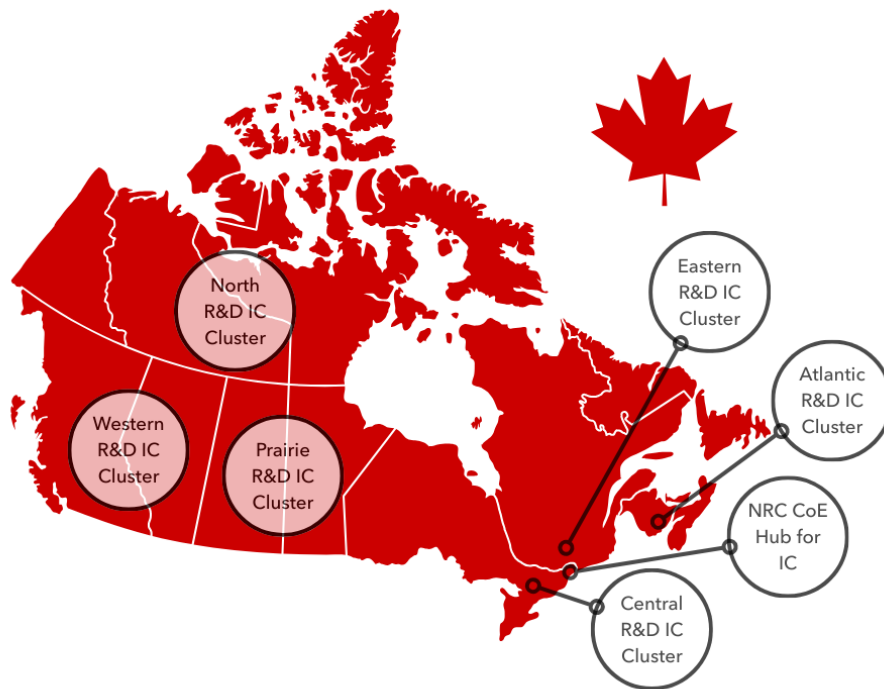
Impact level - low to high



Key focus area	Initiative	Short- term		Mid-term		Long-term		
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Beyond 2030
Policy & regulatory frameworks	PR1.Simplify & harmonize approvals							
	PR2.Harmonize project funding							
	PR3.Identify inefficiencies in codes							
	PR4. Align municipalities and governments							
	PR5. Ensure policy continuity							
Procurement models & performance systems	PM1. Develop collaborative procurement							
	PM2. Improve contract language							
	PM3. Develop or modify IC contracts with CCDC							
Financial and insurance services	FI1. Underwrite IC lending							
	FI2. Deleverage risk with R&D tax incentives							
	FI3.Provide flexible R&D funding							
	FI4.Structure financial solution							
	FI5. Create a best practice proforma							
	FI6. Conduct insurance gap studies							
Awareness, competency, and collaboration	AC1. Launch an awareness campaign							
	AC2. Address competency gaps and IC opportunities							
	AC3. Standardize DfMA collaboration							
Quantifying capacity and capability for IC	CC1.Quantify labour benefits							
	CC2. Map OSC solutions and capabilities							
	CC3. Incentivize and support IC growth							
Research and data sharing	RD1. Develop data capture tools							
	RD2. Create PMV toolkits							

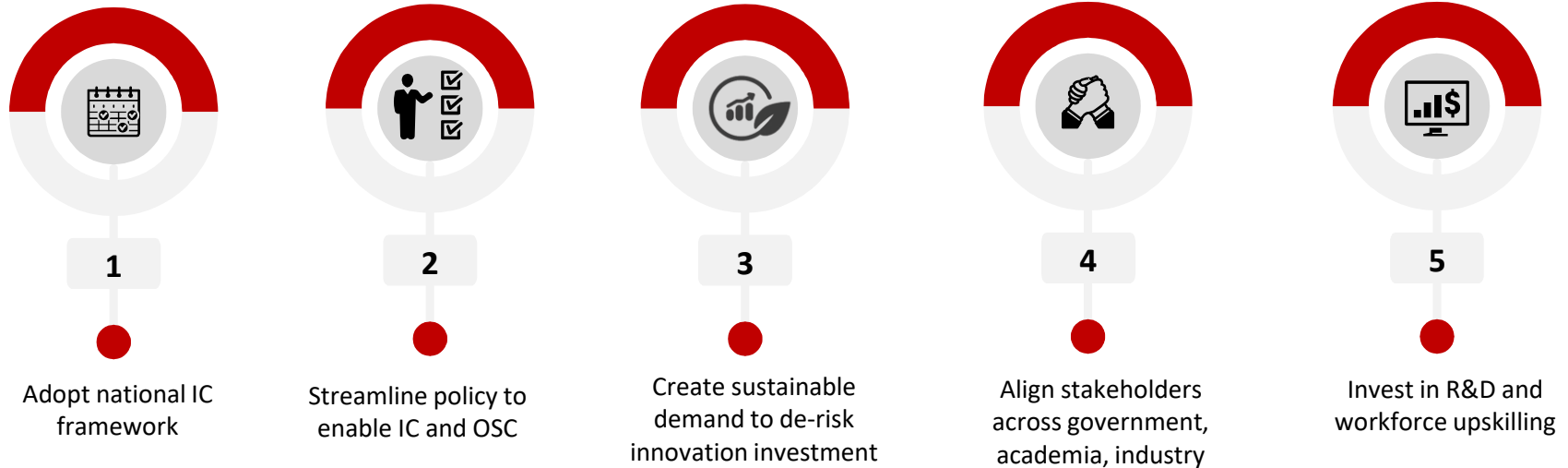
# National hub-and-spoke model for IC R&D

To deliver on the IC Roadmap, a hub-and-spoke system is proposed, with the National Research Council as the national hub, supported by regional R&D clusters across Canada.



# Call to Action

Next steps: Turning strategy into action





**Thank you for your attention!**

**Q&A?**

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