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# News Release

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## GOVERNMENTS PARTNER TO CREATE JOBS, STIMULATE ECONOMY

*174 infrastructure projects will receive funding across the province*

BRITISH COLUMBIA – Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia, and Jay Hill, Member of Parliament for Prince George – Peace River and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, today announced 174 new infrastructure projects valued at over \$719 million to help communities throughout British Columbia meet their pressing infrastructure needs, help stimulate the economy, create jobs and support continued economic growth.

“We are leveraging every dollar available to create literally thousands of jobs throughout every region of the province and building our communities so they are strong and competitive as we emerge from this economic downturn,” said Premier Campbell. “The investments we’ve made since launching the Economic Action Plan have already created an estimated 21,600 jobs. Today’s announcement will create about 4,600 more jobs and is the next step in our ongoing, three-year job creation strategy to build confidence and keep British Columbians working.”

“Under the stronger leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, our Government is taking unprecedented action to put shovels in the ground and stimulate the economy here in British Columbia,” said Minister Hill. “Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, we are moving in record time in partnership with other levels of government to ensure construction begins, jobs are created, and we get back on our feet again.”

Today’s announcement represents a contribution of \$244 million from the Government of Canada, \$233 million from the province of British Columbia, and the remainder from local governments. The funding is being delivered through two important programs:

The **Infrastructure Stimulus Fund** was introduced by the Government of Canada in collaboration with all levels of government to unleash infrastructure projects across Canada provided they are completed by March 31, 2011. Today, 90 local government and provincial projects were announced in British Columbia totalling \$343 million, which represents \$127 million from the Government of Canada, \$116 million from the province of British Columbia, and the remainder from local governments. Today's announcement is in addition to \$290 million announced through the Stimulus Fund on April 7, 2009 for numerous projects across the province.

Secondly, the **Communities Component**, under the Building Canada Fund, allows the Government of Canada and provinces and territories to invite communities with populations of less than 100,000 to apply for infrastructure projects. This year, the Government of Canada “topped up” this fund and provided additional funding to communities of this size. Today, a total of 84 projects were announced totalling \$376 million, which represents \$117 million from the Government of Canada, \$117 million from the province of British Columbia, and the remainder from local governments. Today’s announcement builds on the announcement on March 13, 2009 of \$48 million in joint funding for 161 community infrastructure projects under Towns for Tomorrow and LocalMotion.

Today we are announcing more than \$632 million in community projects, the largest single announcement for community infrastructure projects in British Columbia history. In addition, there are almost \$87 million in provincial projects that will directly benefit communities.

In addition, the Government of Canada has set aside up to \$70 million under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund for projects in the City of Vancouver. The federal government is currently working closely with the city to identify appropriate projects, and announcements will be made shortly.

Further announcements will be made in the near future for the remaining Infrastructure Stimulus Fund allocation in British Columbia.

“Local governments throughout the province will put this funding to use creating jobs and building critical community infrastructure,” said Robert Hobson, President of the Union of B.C. Municipalities. “Today’s announcement is a major step towards the fulfilment of the goals identified in the 2009 federal budget. UBCM is very appreciative of the collective work by the federal and provincial governments to deliver this funding to local priorities.”

The Government of Canada’s 2009 Economic Action Plan includes a vast array of initiatives to help to stimulate the economy, create jobs, build consumer confidence, and assist Canadians when they need it most during this global economic recession. New large-scale infrastructure programs are one important element of this plan.

The projects are funded under the Province’s three-year, \$14-billion capital infrastructure program, which will create up to 88,000 jobs and help build vital public infrastructure in every region of B.C. To date, \$3.4 billion has already been announced for projects across British Columbia, creating an estimated 21,600 jobs. The federal and provincial governments have reached an agreement under the federal government’s program totalling \$1.2 billion. Further announcements will be made outlining the details of B.C.’s remaining allocation.

For further information on the Government of Canada's infrastructure investments in British Columbia, visit [www.creatingjobs.gc.ca](http://www.creatingjobs.gc.ca).

To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).

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