

For Immediate Release
2009CD0080-000463
March 20, 2009

Ministry of Community Development

\$1.2 MILLION FOR TERRACE INFRASTRUCTURE, RECREATION

TERRACE – The City of Terrace is receiving over \$1.2 million in federal and provincial funding to improve drinking water reliability during power outages, enhance local pedestrian pathways and strengthen local government services.

“This funding will greatly benefit the residents of Terrace and is yet another example of both governments’ commitment to strengthen our economy by reducing red tape, creating jobs and getting shovels in the ground sooner,” said Prince George-Peace River M.P. Jay Hill.

“Improving drinking water safety and strengthening recreation are laudable goals for the City of Terrace and we are pleased to be working in partnership with them on both of these projects,” said Pat Bell, MLA for Prince George North, on behalf of Kevin Krueger, Minister of Community Development. “In addition, this funding is also helping create jobs at the local level, providing community stability during these difficult economic times. It’s proof that by working in partnership, we can make a difference for workers and families.”

Today’s announcement includes:

- \$335,573 in federal and provincial funding from the Towns for Tomorrow program for the Frank Street Well Emergency Generator project, which will improve drinking water safety and reliability for 11,000 residents during power outages.
- \$94,225 in federal and provincial funding from the LocalMotion program for the Grand Trunk Pathway: Downtown Gateway Project, which will enhance community and recreation pathways between Eby and Sande Streets.
- \$42,323 from the Trees for Tomorrow program for the Downtown Gateway Urban Forest Project, which will use volunteers to enhance urban trails and educate residents about the environment.
- \$739,828 from the Province’s Strategic Community Investment Fund, a restructuring of provincial grant programs to give communities more funding sooner, including:
 - \$515,886 in Small Community Grants to support Terrace in providing basic services.
 - \$223,942 in Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing to help Terrace enhance policing and community-based safety programs.
 - \$3,899 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program – equal to 100 per cent of the carbon tax paid as part of direct expenditures on fossil fuels. The community is one of more than 175 communities that have signed the Climate Action Charter committing to becoming carbon neutral by 2012.

The Towns for Tomorrow and LocalMotion projects are part of an overall \$14-billion capital infrastructure program supported by the Province that will create up to 88,000 jobs and help build vital public infrastructure in every region of B.C.

Beyond this funding announcement, the Government of Canada is taking important steps to support economic growth. Canada's Economic Action Plan, announced in Budget 2009, is a balanced stimulus plan that includes massive investments in infrastructure, tax relief and transfers. This plan will provide close to \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over two years which will address needs in communities across Canada, as well as contributing to long-term economic growth through investments in public infrastructure, such as roads, water treatment, green energy and transit.

BACKGROUND

Towns for Tomorrow is a five-year, \$71-million program that helps smaller communities and regional districts with infrastructure projects. Towns for Tomorrow provides up to 80 per cent of funding for communities under 5,000, to a maximum of \$400,000, and 75 per cent of funding for communities up to 15,000, to a maximum of \$375,000. As a result of a commitment on the part of all levels of government to accelerate the disbursement of infrastructure funding to stimulate the economy and meet the needs of communities, the federal government is proudly supporting the Towns for Tomorrow program. To learn more, go to www.townsfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca.

LocalMotion is a four-year, \$40-million program helps communities to build capital projects like bike paths, walkways and greenways, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and making communities more senior- and disability-friendly. The program provides local governments up to 50 per cent funding for approved projects up to a maximum contribution of \$1 million. As a result of a commitment on the part of all levels of government to accelerate the disbursement of infrastructure funding to stimulate the economy, the federal government is proudly supporting the LocalMotion program. For more information, visit www.localmotion.gov.bc.ca online.

Trees for Tomorrow is a five-year, \$13-million program that is supporting community organizations, First Nations and local governments in urban and rural areas in planting four million trees in the public areas of cities, towns, villages and regional districts throughout B.C. In its first year, the program is providing approximately \$3 million to support the planting of trees and the implementation of other energy-saving initiatives across British Columbia. The initiative, first announced in the 2008 speech from the throne, involves cost-sharing with a range of applicants and stewardship organizations. To learn more, visit www.treesfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca

Strategic Community Investment Fund: Through a restructuring of provincial grant programs, communities will see more funding sooner, giving them greater certainty and improved financial flexibility. Payments will be made on the basis of Strategic Community Investment Agreements with local governments. The first \$133-million instalment on this two-year, \$232-million initiative consists of the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program and Small Community and Regional District Grants.

Small Community and Regional District Grants: \$70 million of the initial \$133-million payment under the Strategic Community Investment Fund will support local governments this year as part of the Province's continuing commitment to help provide services in areas with smaller tax bases. The grant allocation takes into account three elements: basic funding for all municipalities with a population of less than 15,000, population-based funding, and property assessment-based funding. This year's payment fulfils the Province's commitment to double these grants over four years.

The Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program: Of the initial \$133-million payment under the Strategic Community Investment Fund, \$63 million will help municipalities enhance policing and community-based public safety programs. The Province has provided 100 per cent of net traffic fine revenues to local governments since 2004, amounting to an additional \$206 million. Traffic fine revenue comes from fines on violation tickets, and the amount a municipality receives is based on its contribution to total municipal policing costs.

The Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program helps communities that have committed to the goal of becoming carbon neutral in their corporate operations by 2012, under the BC Climate Action Charter. The program provides local governments with grants to offset 100 per cent of the carbon tax they have directly paid for fossil fuel purchases.

The RuralBC Secretariat, established by the Province in 2008, helps local governments access the tools they need to achieve their unique visions for the future. The secretariat provides a direct service and information link between the provincial government and B.C.'s rural communities. The secretariat's regional managers are there to help communities take advantage of the most appropriate programs and sources of provincial and federal funding and identify opportunities to diversify local economies. Local governments are encouraged to visit www.ruralbc.gov.bc.ca for more information.

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