



Bringing Out the Best for Local Government



Resources to Ensure Strong Municipal Services

Local governments are the front-line providers of the community services that British Columbians depend on. That's why the government has protected funding for local government grants, to ensure strong municipal services. The province has:

- ▶ Committed \$122 million towards policing, corrections, and crime prevention.
- ▶ Provided over \$130 million per year in grants to local governments, to help them build safe, healthy communities.
- ▶ Maintained unconditional grants to ensure local governments have the flexibility to allocate resources where they are needed most.
- ▶ Partnered with federal and local governments to fund more than 250 infrastructure improvement projects.

Strengthening Local Decision-Making

We've provided municipalities with a modern legislative framework through the new Community Charter, which increases local autonomy and accountability, and harmonizes provincial and local government relations. The charter:

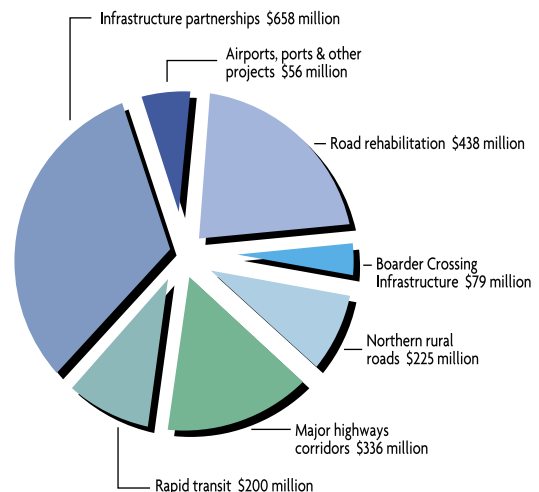
- ▶ Empowers local governments to make the best decisions for their areas.
- ▶ Enables local governments to streamline and standardize regulations across municipal boundaries, making it easier for businesses to operate in multiple jurisdictions.
- ▶ Outlaws downloading of costs by the province.
- ▶ Enhances local accountability by ensuring councils prepare annual reports.

Improving Transportation to Create Jobs

Increasing the safety, efficiency and integration of our transportation network will open up new economic opportunities. The province has:

- ▶ Budgeted over \$2 billion for transportation infrastructure over the next three years.
- ▶ Renewed the Canada-B.C. partnership that has so far dedicated \$336 million to upgrade the Trans-Canada Highway and other trade corridors.
- ▶ Committed to address an array of safety, congestion and capacity concerns across B.C.
- ▶ Adopted a new approach for BC Ferries that will improve service, guarantee service levels and fair rates and see \$2 billion in fleet and asset renewal.
- ▶ Embarked on a new partnership for BC Rail, based on input from northern communities, to improve access to external markets.

\$2 billion towards improved transportation over 3 years (2005-2008)



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Protecting Public Health Through Safe Drinking Water

The province has created a drinking water action plan to ensure source-to-tap protection, and has:

- ▶ Created the Community Water Improvement Program providing \$80 million towards drinking water and waste water management projects with a total value of \$120 million.
- ▶ Funded, with federal and local partners, 100 water-related improvement projects valued at over \$332 million.
- ▶ Added \$1.5 million in funding for drinking-water monitoring and protection.
- ▶ Passed new drinking-water and groundwater legislation to enhance testing and assessments and provide for new drinking-water officers.

Stronger Measures to Improve Public Safety

To ensure safer streets and communities, the province has:

- ▶ Returned 100 per cent of all net traffic fines to municipalities, exceeding the New Era commitment of 75 per cent. This funding, over \$40 million/year, is part of a comprehensive strategy to enhance community policing, crime prevention and public safety.
- ▶ Passed new laws to crack down on street racing and strengthened penalties for drunk driving.
- ▶ Legislated greater parental responsibility for property crimes committed by children.
- ▶ Protected funding for transition houses for women and children, as well as individual and group counselling.
- ▶ Improved services for victims of crime by funding 24 new police and community-based programs across B.C., plus a 24-hour crisis line for victims who need help.

Strengthening Local Economies

We've launched the Heartlands Economic Strategy to create action plans with local and regional governments, businesses and First Nations and unleash the potential of all B.C. communities. Key commitments include:

- ▶ Establishing a B.C. Resort Task Force to expedite growth and expansion in B.C.'s resort sector.
- ▶ Introducing the Forestry Revitalization Plan, which will see the province work with forest companies, communities, workers and First Nations to ensure a competitive, sustainable forest industry.
- ▶ Creating the Rocks to Riches Mineral Development Strategy, to double annual investment in exploration, support mine discovery and generate exploration and mining jobs.
- ▶ Developing an energy plan that will work toward government's goal of stimulating new energy investment and creating thousands of new jobs.
- ▶ Generating regional economic development plans that focus and build on regional strengths.

Promoting our number-one industry



B.C. is investing \$19 million a year to strengthen markets and pursue new opportunities in forestry.

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Local Governments

Community Charter

Victoria: 205 387-4050

www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/charter/index.htm

Local Government Grants

Victoria: 250 356-6575

www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/lgd/pol_research/grants.html

Restructuring Assistance Program

Local Government Structure Branch

Victoria: 250 387-4054

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Planning Grant Program

Infrastructure and Finance Division

Victoria: 250 387-4060

Canada-B.C. Infrastructure Program

Information can be obtained through the following:

Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise

Victoria: 250 952-0675

Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services

Victoria: 250 387-4060

www.gov.bc.ca/cse/

Local Citizens

Government agents will handle most local government-related enquiries. Call Enquiry B.C. and ask to be transferred to your local government agent.

Enquiry B.C.

Victoria: 250 387-6121

Vancouver: 604 660-2421

Elsewhere in B.C.: 1 800 663-7867

Telephone device for the deaf:

Vancouver: 604 775-0303

Elsewhere in B.C.: 1 800 661-8773

2010 Olympic Bid

www.winter2010.com

Civic Info BC

(municipal government news and information)

Victoria: 250 383-4898

www.civicinfo.bc.ca/

Civic Net BC

Union of BC Municipalities

Richmond: 604 270-8226

www.civicnet.bc.ca

BC Online

(information on land titles, property assessments, B.C. companies, and more)

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-6102

www.bconline.gov.bc.ca/

Land Title Branch

Victoria: 250 952-5852

<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/landtitle/>

BC Assessment

bcassessment.gov.bc.ca/

Property Assessment Appeal Board

Richmond: 604 775-1740

www.assessmentappeal.bc.ca

Public Libraries

www.bcpl.gov.bc.ca/public/contacts.php

Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in British Columbia

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/cpa/publications/safe_drinking_printcopy.pdf

We want your input

We live in the best province, in the best country in the world – and it's our local communities all across B.C. that make our quality of life second to none.

Our government is working hard to make sure local governments have the resources they need to serve you, and to create new prosperity and opportunities for all of us, in every region of our province.

I welcome your input and invite you to contact me for more information on our initiatives to strengthen B.C. communities.

Gordon Campbell
Premier

E-mail your comments to: premier@gov.bc.ca