

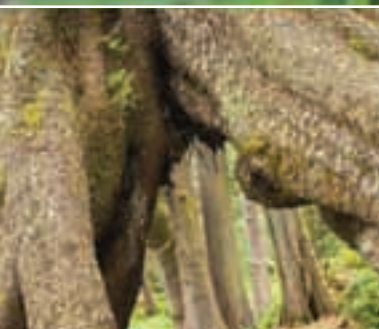
THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH »»

**FOR SUSTAINABLE,
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

The Best Place on Earth



WE WANT YOUR INPUT



We all want to live in healthy, sustainable communities. That's why the Province is working with local governments to invest in improved infrastructure, services and public safety; create attractive, welcoming public spaces; and reward communities making greener choices.

Programs like Towns for Tomorrow are enabling small communities to make big infrastructure investments. Through B.C. Spirit Squares and LocalMotion, communities of all sizes are building better places to gather and improving ways to get around. And Green City Awards are recognizing leading-edge municipal efforts to generate environmental benefits for us all.

The Province is working closely with UBCM and individual local governments to provide funding to support safe and healthy communities, providing for crime prevention and increased policing through the return of traffic fine revenues, and crystal meth response and community health promotion through local grants.

I welcome your input and invite you to contact me with your ideas on how we can continue to create healthy, attractive and sustainable communities for all British Columbians.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Gordon Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

*Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia*



Please Recycle

This product is printed on Productolith Matte paper. By using 10% post-consumer recycled paper for this project, we have the following environmental savings: 758 gallons of water; 84 lbs. of landfill reduced; and 165 lbs. of greenhouse gases reduced.

BUILDING GREENER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

At the 2006 Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) convention, the Province introduced four programs aimed at making B.C. communities greener and healthier, with reduced greenhouse gases, improved air quality and increased energy conservation.


» LocalMotion is providing \$40 million over four years to help build bike paths, walkways, greenways, improved accessibility for persons with disabilities, and support programs to get kids playing in communities and parks. Local governments can apply for grants on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis, with a provincial contribution of up to \$1 million a year. To date, the Province has announced funding to:

- Rebuild and enhance the seawall and forest trails in Vancouver's Stanley Park.
- Convert an existing railway corridor into a multi-use pathway connecting neighbourhoods, parks and recreational facilities in Kelowna.
- Improve trails, crossings and sidewalks over 15 km to link schools, shops and recreation centres in Saanich.
- Complete a perimeter trail system around Fort St. John.



- » Towns for Tomorrow is providing \$21 million over three years for infrastructure projects in communities with populations under 5,000. The Province will fund 80% of project costs up to a maximum of \$500,000. Projects announced to date include:
 - 100 Mile House's upgrade of the historic Martin Exeter Hall and 100 Mile Lodge Conference Centre.
 - The Community Resource Centre at the heart of Keremeos's trail system.
 - Wells's very first municipal recreational facility, the Pooley Street Performance Centre and Ball Diamond.

- » B.C. Spirit Squares is providing up to \$20 million to assist communities in creating or enhancing outdoor public meeting spaces. The Province will fund up to \$500,000 to cover half of project costs. Projects underway include:
 - West Vancouver's Civic Centre Atrium.
 - Merritt's Legacy Plaza.
 - Revelstoke's Grizzly Plaza expansion.
 - Enhancements to Maple Ridge's Memorial Peace Park.



Through funding partnerships and innovative programs, the Province plays a pivotal role in building the healthy, sustainable and vibrant communities that make B.C. the best place on Earth to live, work and invest.

- » Green City Awards is providing up to \$500,000 a year over the next five years to communities that encourage physical activity, energy conservation and environmental benefits. The first awards were announced at the UBCM convention in September 2007.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

To ensure B.C. communities have efficient, green infrastructure to support a growing population, a strong economy and a high quality of life, the Province has:

- » Launched, and later enhanced, the Canada-British Columbia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, to which the federal and provincial governments are each committing \$74.5 million. Local government contributions are expected to push the total program value to over \$220 million.
- » Negotiated federal gas tax funding, in partnership with UBCM, to secure \$635 million over five years from the federal government, for infrastructure in B.C. communities.
- » Provided \$920,000 in grants to help local governments plan, design and manage water, sewer, drainage and transportation infrastructure, through the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program.
- » Invested \$80 million in 87 drinking and wastewater infrastructure projects under the B.C. Community Water Improvement Program.



PROVIDING STABLE SUPPORT TO B.C. COMMUNITIES

To ensure communities of all sizes have the tools they need to build on their vision and meet their residents' needs, the Province is:

- » Committed to doubling the Small Community Grants program by 2009, helping B.C.'s smaller municipalities provide important services to residents. In 2007 alone, the program provided total grants of \$40 million to small and medium-sized municipalities and regional districts.
- » Implementing Resort Municipality Revenue Sharing agreements enabling 13 communities to share a portion of the hotel room tax to invest in local, resort-oriented projects and programs.
- » Returning 100% of all net traffic fine revenue to municipalities to enhance community policing, crime prevention and public safety. Since this program expanded in 2004, the total provided to municipalities for public safety has risen to \$199.8 million from \$40 million. The traffic fine revenue has supported the hiring of more than 450 police officers across B.C.
- » Posting local government traffic fine revenue spending reports, ensuring accountability for public funds, and opportunities for communities to share ideas on enhancing safety.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UBCM

To support UBCM's important work to serve and represent communities in B.C., the Province has:

- » Provided UBCM with \$52.5 million from the federal Public Transit Capital Trust to support local government investments in public transit infrastructure, help reduce traffic congestion and pollution, and increase the use of public transit.
- » Chaired the Community Opportunities Task Force to explore ways for the Province and local governments to work together to deliver taxpayer services most cost-effectively. The task force focused on regulatory reform, governance and revenue sharing.
- » Provided \$65 million to UBCM for a variety of local grant programs, including Crystal Meth Response, community health promotion, strategic wildfire prevention and emergency planning.
- » Provided a \$1-million start-up grant for the UBCM Leadership Academy, to enhance local government and First Nations leadership across British Columbia.
- » Introduced the Regulatory Best Practices Guide, designed to encourage the best use of regulatory powers available to local governments under the Community Charter.
- » Transferred property deed in Victoria to UBCM for the construction of a new, permanent, environmentally friendly Municipal House in B.C.'s capital.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

RELATED MINISTRIES

Ministry of Community Services

www.gov.bc.ca/cserv

LocalMotion

www.localmotion.gov.bc.ca

BC Spirit Squares

www.spiritsquares.gov.bc.ca

Towns for Tomorrow

www.townsfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca

Green City Awards

www.greencityawards.gov.bc.ca

USEFUL LINKS

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

Canada-BC Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program

Victoria: 250 952-0675

www.canadabcmrif.ca

Service BC *(For information on any provincial government service or program)*

Monday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Victoria: 250 387-6121 • Vancouver: 604 660-2421

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-7867

Telephone device for the deaf (TDD)

In Vancouver: 604 775-0303

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

www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca

FrontCounterBC

Toll free: 1 877 855-3222

www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca

**SIGN-UP FOR THE PREMIER'S NEWSLETTER:
PREMIERSOFFICE@GOV.BC.CA**

**SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:
E-MAIL: PREMIER@GOV.BC.CA**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

The Best Place on Earth