

Canada-B.C. Infrastructure Funding Announcement

Premier Gordon Campbell

September 23, 2004

Check Against Delivery

I want to start by saying I appreciate the spirit that David Emerson has brought to the table for all of us in British Columbia. It's very important as we move ahead and B.C. takes its rightful role as a leader in Canada. There's an awful lot of innovation that's taking place in our province that is actually looked at by other parts of the country as leading edge, and they're trying to follow us.

I think Frank Leonard has picked up on that as the president of the UBCM. Our community charter is certainly something that is critically important. But part of that is to make sure we have resources that are meeting local needs across the province in small communities and large communities alike. That's part of what the infrastructure program allows us to do.

One of the things that the UBCM convention always reminds us of is when we do work in partnership we accomplish so much more. So I want to pay tribute to all of you who spend your time serving in local government and provincial government and the federal government to try and create an even better Canada and British Columbia.

Today I'm pleased to announce that almost \$9.4 million in federal-provincial funding will be used for ten infrastructure projects with a total value of over \$33 million. The funding, through the Canada-B.C. infrastructure program, will include \$3.8 million for the Elk Valley Coal Society Discovery Centre in Sparwood, \$4.5 million for upgrading the Burrard Bridge, \$120,000 for the Prince George Snowmobile Club, \$413,000 for the Finlayson Arm Bridge over Goldstream in Langford and a number of other projects as well.

This actually brings the number of projects being funded under the Canada-B.C. Infrastructure Program to 299. That represents \$870 million of investment in critically important local projects across our province.

Minister Emerson is going to go and look for the next generation of infrastructure proposals and infrastructure support. The UBCM, I'm sure, will be

encouraging you and so will the province of British Columbia because they are programs that work for the people that we serve.

We're working together in a whole range of areas in Canada and in British Columbia to open up our province to opportunities. We're working to welcome the world here to the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games and to share the excitement of that, both in tourism and athletic development, to every community across the province.

We're working to make sure that our forest industry is restored and revitalized as we move forward and deal with the incredible challenges placed on all of us in communities across the province by the pine beetle and by the softwood lumber dispute. We're working to assure that we have a transportation infrastructure that works. And we're working to make sure that we have an environmental structure that makes a difference.

As we work together, I think it is important for everybody to know we are working on behalf of all British Columbians because we know this is the best place on earth.

Thank you very much.