
News Release

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ANNOUNCES \$80 MILLION FOR NATIONAL AND MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

YELLOWKNIFE (Northwest Territories), October 4, 2003 – Allan Rock, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Infrastructure, together with David Collenette, Minister of Transport, Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State (Rural Development) (FedNor), and Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State (Children and Youth), and Member of Parliament for Western Arctic, today announced contributions totalling over \$80 million for Northwest Territories infrastructure priorities and the national *Corridors for Canada* initiative.

“These investments confirm the Government of Canada’s commitment to address strategic infrastructure needs identified in the Northwest Territories *Corridors for Canada* proposal,” said Minister Rock. “The improvements announced today will contribute to the Northwest Territories’ economic growth by improving access to oil and gas resources and facilitating pipeline construction.”

An initial \$20 million contribution, to be made under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF), will go to the *Corridors for Canada* proposal for the reconstruction of highway segments on the Dempster Highway and the Slave Province Transportation Corridor, as well as to the construction of bridges on the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road. The Northwest Territories will also contribute \$20 million towards these projects.

The Government of Canada remains committed to participate in subsequent phases of the *Corridors for Canada* proposal, and to see the overall project completed as quickly as possible to open up opportunities for northerners and for all Canadians. To this end, an additional contribution of \$20 million, through the 2003 Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund and \$25 million under the Fund’s national priority project component, will be allocated for *Corridors for Canada* next steps.

“The projects announced today will go a long way towards addressing public transportation needs that will help improve the safety of local residents and tourists,” said Minister Collenette. “They will also help make transportation corridors for the diamond, gold and base metal resources sectors safer and more efficient.”

The Northwest Territories will also receive over \$15 million from the Government of Canada’s new Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF), announced on August 20, 2003. The \$1 billion MRIF has been structured to provide a balanced response to local infrastructure needs



in urban and rural Canada, and will ensure that all Canadians, including those living in small and remote communities will share in the benefits of infrastructure investments.

“The Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund will help address the unique challenges facing our northern communities across Canada,” said Secretary of State Mitchell. “We look forward to working with our partners in the provinces, territories and municipalities, to ensure that people in these communities can enjoy the same quality of life as Canadians living in large urban centres.”

“These projects will create local employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal people,” said Secretary of State Blondin-Andrew. “We look forward to working with the territorial government to address the infrastructure needs in the Mackenzie Valley and the Slave Corridor, and across the Territories.”

“I am pleased that the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund also includes a First Nation component,” commented Robert Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. “Through this Fund, Government of Canada’s reiterates its long-standing commitment to foster economic development opportunities and improve quality of life of Aboriginal people who live on-reserve.”

For more information on Infrastructure Canada and its programs, please visit:

<http://www.infrastructurecanada.gc.ca>.

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