

MINISTER LEBEL HIGHLIGHTS GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Ottawa, Ontario, November 18, 2013 – During his appearance today at the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities (SCOTIC), the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Infrastructure, Communities, and Intergovernmental Affairs, confirmed that the outstanding parameters for the New Building Canada Plan are currently under development, and will be announced by the end of the year, to ensure project proposals can be considered as soon as possible in 2014.

Additionally, the Minister noted that work is underway to sign new agreements with the provinces and territories to renew the now permanent Gas Tax Fund, which will be indexed at 2 per cent per year, with increases to be applied in \$100 million increments, starting in 2014. Over the 10-year life of the plan, from 2014 to 2024, the Gas Tax Fund will grow by \$1.8 billion, for a total investment of close to \$22 billion in infrastructure funding for Canadian municipalities.

“We are committed to signing agreements as soon as possible with provinces and territories to implement the renewed and now permanent Gas Tax Fund,” stated Minister Lebel. “The renewed agreements are now with the provinces and territories, and we are ready to sign them. These agreements will ensure that the \$2 billion in funding scheduled for 2014-15 can be transferred to municipalities so they can continue to use this predictable funding for their local infrastructure priorities. Provinces, territories and municipalities can start planning for new projects now.”

In addition to the Gas Tax Fund, Minister Lebel reiterated that existing programs continue to provide record funding to infrastructure projects across Canada. In fact, there is \$6 billion that continues to be available for projects across the country in 2014-15 and beyond.

“This existing funding will ensure that upcoming construction seasons can be put to good use in delivering local infrastructure priorities,” said Minister Lebel. Some examples of these important projects across Canada include the new state-of-the-art St. Catharines Arts Centre in St. Catharines, Ontario; expanding the Toronto-York Spadina Subway; constructing biomethanization facilities for waste management in Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec; and constructing a truck bypass on Highway 39 in Estevan, Saskatchewan.

Economic Action Plan 2013 builds on our Government's historic infrastructure investments, with \$70 billion for public infrastructure, including the \$53 billion New Building Canada Plan for provincial, territorial and municipal infrastructure, over the next decade, starting in 2014-15.

The New Building Canada Plan, combined with other federal infrastructure investments, supports Canada's infrastructure advantage, which is a key enabler of economic growth and job creation.

For additional information about federal investments in infrastructure, visit Infrastructure Canada or follow us on Twitter @INFC_eng.

For further information about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit Canada's Economic Action Plan. (www.actionplan.gc.ca)

For additional information, please contact:

Marie-Josée Paquette

Press Secretary

Office of the Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Intergovernmental Affairs and
Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec

613-943-1838

Statement by FCM President following delivery of Gas Tax Fund for municipal infrastructure

November 18, 2013 - The following statement was released by Claude Dauphin, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), following the announcement by the Government of Canada that it will deliver the second installment of the annual \$2-billion Gas Tax Fund for municipal infrastructure:

"As the second installment of Gas Tax money is set to flow to local governments, it is a great opportunity to recognize its importance to Canada's cities and communities, as well as the national economy.

The federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) is no ordinary infrastructure program. It is a permanent federal transfer that provides predictable, long-term funding for municipalities to build and revitalize public infrastructure - our roads and bridges as well as water, public transit and solid waste management systems that support our national economy.

In the last federal budget, the government took important steps to entrench the principle of long-term sustainable infrastructure funding.

- To protect its purchasing power, the federal government indexed the GTF at 2% annually which will translate into \$9 billion over 20 years.
- The government also increased the flexibility of the Gas Tax Fund to enable cities and communities to use the fund to meet their unique infrastructure needs.

FCM commends Ministers Flaherty and Lebel and the federal government for continuing to recognize the important role that the Government of Canada must play, in delivering predictable and stable infrastructure funding through the Gas Tax Fund.

Today's announcement provides further proof that when all orders of government work together, they produce results. We must continue to work together to apply these same principles to the development of a new Building Canada Plan."