
PRESS RELEASE

Canada-Quebec Partnership on Infrastructure

Accelerated funding to create jobs and stimulate the economy

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, May 22, 200 - The Minister of Public Works and Government Services, Mr. Christian Paradis, accompanied by the Minister of Finances and Economic Development, Innovation and Exports of Quebec and Minister responsible for the Montreal region, Mr. Raymond Bachand, today announced joint investments in 65 infrastructure initiatives under the Quebec Infrastructure Plan, following the newly-signed Canada-Quebec Base Funding agreement, a program that is part of the Building Canada Plan. Most of the initiatives will involve drinking water and wastewater treatment and improvements to the road network.

"In our 2009 Economic Action Plan, our government made a commitment to accelerate payments for the base funding initiative to help provinces and territories like Quebec invest now in the quality of life of our fellow citizens and get shovels in the ground on projects for the next two construction seasons," said Minister Paradis. "Today's announcement is a tangible example of what we are doing to create jobs and allow Quebec and the economy to prosper now and in the future."

"Quebec is pleased with the signing of this agreement, which provides a transfer of \$175 million to Quebec over two years, to finance projects for upgrading our infrastructure and maintaining Quebec's expertise in this field. The framework agreement on infrastructure signed on September 3, 2008 provided for funding of \$25 million per year over a seven-year period, from 2007-2008 to 2013-2014. The joint decision to accelerate the payment and use of the funding demonstrates the commitment of the two governments to support jobs and stimulate our economy during this difficult period. Of this amount, \$50 million has been allocated to projects completed in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, with \$125 million allocated to projects that will be completed this year and next year. By modernizing our infrastructure today, we are ensuring sustainable development in a prosperous Quebec", added Minister Bachand.

Among the 65 funding initiatives receiving funding are the water supply upgrading for the city of Sherbrooke, a complete rebuilding of the A-440/A-740 interchange in Quebec City, and improvements to Puvirnituq Airport in northern Quebec. Quebec will provide \$402 million in funding in addition to the \$175 million federal government contribution, and Quebec municipalities are providing \$93 million, for a total of \$670 million towards construction projects.

The Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan is accelerating and expanding the existing federal investment of \$33 billion in infrastructure as part of the Building Canada Plan, injecting almost \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over two years across the country.

The contribution of the government of Quebec is part of the Quebec Infrastructure Plan, involving an investment of \$42 billion over the next five years throughout Quebec, with a particular focus on renewing existing infrastructure.

-30-

Additional information:

For more details about infrastructure investments, visit www.creatingjobs.qc.ca.

For more details about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.qc.ca.

For more details about the Quebec Infrastructure Plan, visit www.tresor.gouv.qc.ca/fr/infrastructure.

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