
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

April 6, 2009
The Editor
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Re: NEW INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING BENEFITS LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Although factors driving the current economic downturn are beyond our control, there are measures that can be undertaken to help protect jobs, families and communities. In February, the B.C. government announced a \$14 billion capital infrastructure program that will create as many as 88,000 jobs over three years.

As part of this initiative, Premier Gordon Campbell recently announced close to \$800 million in funding for new public infrastructure projects. These projects will create over 4,800 jobs in communities across British Columbia. These are in addition to projects already announced.

In the mid-Vancouver Island area, a number of key infrastructure projects have already been identified and are being fast-tracked and moving forward. Here are just a few examples:

Qualicum Beach will receive \$2.2 million for a major upgrade to its water supply system, which supplies one-third of Qualicum Beach's drinking water. Parksville will receive \$1.7 million to upgrade Moilliet Street in the city's downtown core. Port Alberni will receive \$1.1 million to replace and improve the efficiency and reliability of the China Creek water main.

Elsewhere, Gold River has been allocated \$360,000 in federal and provincial funding for upgrades to a local arena's refrigeration plant. The Regional District of Nanaimo will receive \$221,625 for a Drinking Water and Watershed Protection monitoring program. And Ladysmith will receive \$375,000 in funding to upgrade an existing baseball field in the community.

Building stability and confidence during tough times is no easy task. But there are measures that can be undertaken now that will benefit British Columbians. Moving quickly to advance infrastructure projects that create thousands of jobs while improving the quality of life for British Columbians is a vital part of achieving this goal.

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