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Ministry of Community Development

## INVESTMENTS BENEFIT SOUTH ISLAND COMMUNITIES

ESQUIMALT – The Honourable Vic Toews, president of the Treasury Board, along with Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development Ida Chong, on behalf of Minister of Community Development Kevin Krueger, today announced joint provincial and federal funding for four south island communities to build local infrastructure, enhance community green spaces and address priority projects to stimulate the local economy.

“Our Conservative Government is taking action to create jobs for Canadians,” said Toews. “Our government’s partnership with the Province for the Towns for Tomorrow and Local Motion projects clearly demonstrates our commitment to strengthen British Columbia’s economy and ensure jobs for its citizens.”

“Partnerships between multiple levels of government strengthen economies, create jobs and build economic resilience while allowing communities to address priority projects and deliver essential services,” said Chong. “These partnerships are one of the best tools we have to help us survive the current economic downturn with renewed strength.”

Today’s announcement includes:

### **Township of Esquimalt**

- \$74,310 in federal and provincial LocalMotion funding for phase one of the Esquimalt new sidewalk construction program, with the proposed work to include constructing new sidewalks in various locations around the town, including a major commercial/industrial zone, a high school and an adjoining large residential area that are not adequately linked via sidewalks.
- \$686,005 through the first instalment of the Province’s Strategic Community Investment Fund, a restructuring of provincial grant programs to give communities more funding sooner, including:
  - \$278,087 in Small Community Grants to support providing basic services.
  - \$407,918 in Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing to help enhance policing and community-based safety programs.
- \$10,000 in Infrastructure Planning Grant Program funding to support the retrofit design for the Gorge Waterway Discovery Centre in Esquimalt project.
- \$3,150 through the Trees for Tomorrow program for the Gorge Creek reforestation project to naturalize two hectares of park and increase habitat, as well as provide opportunities for recreation and education. The project will also address erosion and improve water quality.
- \$4,440 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program – equal to 100 per cent of the carbon tax paid as part of direct expenditures on fossil fuels. Esquimalt is one of the more than 175 communities that have signed the Climate Action Charter committing to becoming carbon neutral by 2012.

**City of Langford**

- \$244,293 in federal and provincial LocalMotion funding for its Improving Active Transportation Along Goldstream Avenue project, constructing 900m of sidewalk and bike lane on both sides of Goldstream Ave. The proposed project will provide safe alternative options to access the business core, schools to the east and recreation facilities to the west.
- \$267,185 through the first instalment of the Province's Strategic Community Investment Fund, a restructuring of provincial grant programs to give communities more funding sooner, including Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing funding.
- \$50,000 in Trees for Tomorrow funding to plant 300 trees in and around Langford residential developments.
- \$1,659 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program – equal to 100 per cent of the carbon tax paid as part of direct expenditures on fossil fuels. Langford is one of the more than 175 communities that have signed the Climate Action Charter committing to becoming carbon neutral by 2012.

### **District of Metchosin**

- \$400,000 in federal and provincial Towns for Tomorrow funding to help replace the deteriorating Morrow Bridge over Veitch Creek on Highway 14 between Metchosin and Sooke. The existing bridge design causes storm water to gather during high water events, resulting in road closures. Replacement of the bridge will include construction of bioswales (green drainage technology), pedestrian sidewalks, bike lanes and public transit linkages.
- \$655,876 through the first instalment of the Small Community and Regional District Grant component of the Province's Strategic Community Investment Fund, a restructuring of provincial grant programs to give communities more funding sooner.
- \$204 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program – equal to 100 per cent of the carbon tax paid as part of direct expenditures on fossil fuels. The District of Metchosin is one of the more than 175 communities that have signed the Climate Action Charter committing to becoming carbon neutral by 2012.

### **District of Sooke**

- \$230,199 in federal and provincial Towns for Tomorrow funding for the Sooke Town Centre Accessible Sidewalk project, which will link many community amenities as part of an overall sidewalk development plan.
- \$579,174 through the first instalment of the Province's Strategic Community Investment Fund, a restructuring of provincial grant programs to give communities more funding sooner, including:
  - \$490,040 in Small Community Grants to support providing basic services.
  - \$89,134 in Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing to help enhance policing and community-based safety programs.
- \$418 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program – equal to 100 per cent of the carbon tax paid as part of direct expenditures on fossil fuels. Sooke is one of the more than 175 communities that have signed the Climate Action Charter committing to becoming carbon neutral by 2012.

The Towns for Tomorrow and LocalMotion projects are part of an overall \$14-billion capital infrastructure program supported by the Province that will create up to 88,000 jobs and help build vital public infrastructure in every region of B.C.

Beyond this funding announcement, the Government of Canada is taking important steps to support economic growth. Canada's Economic Action Plan, announced in Budget 2009, is a balanced stimulus plan that includes massive investments in infrastructure, tax relief and transfers. This plan will provide close to \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over two years which will address needs in communities across Canada, as well as contributing to long-term economic growth through investments in public infrastructure, such as roads, water treatment, green energy and transit.

### **BACKGROUND**

**Towns for Tomorrow** is a five-year, \$71-million program that helps smaller communities and regional districts with infrastructure projects. Towns for Tomorrow provides up to 80 per cent of funding for communities under 5,000, to a maximum of \$400,000, and 75 per cent of funding for communities up to 15,000, to a maximum of \$375,000. As a result of a commitment on the part of all levels of government to accelerate the disbursement of infrastructure funding to stimulate the economy and meet the needs of communities, the federal government is proudly supporting the Towns for Tomorrow program. To learn more, go to [www.townsfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca](http://www.townsfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca).

**LocalMotion** is a four-year, \$40-million program helps communities to build capital projects like bike paths, walkways and greenways, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and making communities more senior- and disability-friendly. The program provides local governments up to 50 per cent funding for approved projects up to a maximum contribution of \$1 million. As a result of a commitment on the part of all levels of government to accelerate the disbursement of infrastructure funding to stimulate the economy, the federal government is proudly supporting the LocalMotion program. For more information, visit [www.localmotion.gov.bc.ca](http://www.localmotion.gov.bc.ca) online.

**Strategic Community Investment Fund:** Through a restructuring of provincial grant programs, communities will see more funding sooner, giving them greater certainty and improved financial flexibility. Payments will be made on the basis of Strategic Community Investment Agreements with local governments. The first \$133-million instalment on this two-year, \$232-million initiative consists of the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program and Small Community and Regional District Grants.

**The Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program:** Of the initial \$133-million payment under the Strategic Community Investment Fund, \$63 million will help municipalities enhance policing and community-based public safety programs. The Province has provided 100 per cent of net traffic fine revenues to local governments since 2004, amounting to an additional \$206 million. Traffic fine revenue comes from fines on violation tickets, and the amount a municipality receives is based on its contribution to total municipal policing costs.

**Small Community and Regional District Grants:** \$70 million of the initial \$133-million payment under the Strategic Community Investment Fund will support local governments this year as part of the Province's continuing commitment to help provide services in areas with smaller tax bases. The grant allocation takes into account three elements: basic funding for all municipalities with a population of less than 15,000, population-based funding, and property assessment-based funding. This year's payment fulfils the Province's commitment to double these grants over four years.

**Trees for Tomorrow** is a five-year, \$13-million program that is supporting community organizations, First Nations and local governments in urban and rural areas in planting four million trees in the public areas of cities, towns, villages and regional districts throughout B.C. In its first year, the program is providing approximately \$3 million to support the planting of trees and the implementation of other energy-saving initiatives across British Columbia. The initiative, first announced in the 2008 speech from the throne, involves cost-sharing with a range of applicants and stewardship organizations. To learn more, visit [www.treesfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca](http://www.treesfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca)

**The Infrastructure Planning Grant Program** is providing over \$660,000 to help municipalities and regional districts with plans to design, develop and manage sustainable infrastructure. Through the program, local governments can receive up to \$10,000 in grant funding. Often these grants fund studies that help communities apply for infrastructure project funding. For example, almost half the projects submitted to the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) for funding were initiated with infrastructure planning grants.

**The Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program** helps communities that have committed to the goal of becoming carbon neutral in their corporate operations by 2012, under the BC Climate Action Charter. The program provides local governments with grants to offset 100 per cent of the carbon tax they have directly paid for fossil fuel purchases.

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