

# BUILDING CANADA PLAN

## an overview

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**A “blueprint for building** a modern and prosperous Canada” is the brand being placed on the new Building Canada Plan laid out by the Government of Canada in early November 2007. The Plan targets a stronger economy, a cleaner environment and better communities through strategic, smartly-funded and executed infrastructure investments.

The Building Canada Plan will build a stronger economy by investing in projects that increase trade, move goods and people more efficiently and grow the economy. Identified as funding areas are gateways and border crossings, highways, short-line rail and short-sea shipping, regional and local airports, connectivity and broadband as well as tourism.

Building a cleaner environment is also one of the tenets of the plan, with wastewater, public transit, green energy, and solid waste management identified as key areas for investment.

The plan also aims to build better communities through investment in drinking water, disaster mitigation, brownfield redevelopment, roads and bridges, and sports and culture.

The Building Canada Plan will provide \$33 billion in funding from 2007-2014.

The \$33 billion includes:

Municipal GST Rebate	\$5.8B
Gas Tax Fund	\$11.8B
Building Canada Fund	\$8.8B
Public-Private Partnerships Fund	\$1.25B
Gateways and Border Crossings Fund	\$2.1B
Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative	\$1.0B
Provincial-Territorial Base Funding	\$2.275B

While the municipal GST rebate and the gas tax fund have already been promised to municipalities, the bulk of the new funding for municipalities will be the Building Canada Fund (BCF). The BCF will focus on projects that deliver economic, environmental and social benefits to all Canadians. Priority funding categories will be the core National Highway System routes, drinking water, wastewater, public transit and green energy, as well as the priority areas iden-

tified above. The program will be operated through 2 components – the Major Infrastructure Component that will target larger, strategic projects of national and regional significance and the Communities Component that will focus on projects in communities with populations fewer than 100,000.

At the editorial deadline for the magazine Manitoba had yet to agree to the terms of the agreement. However we do know that Manitoba’s share of the Building Canada Fund will be based on the population numbers used in the 2006 Census. All projects will be cost shared, with the Federal contribution on any project being a maximum of 50%. However, most projects will be based on 1/3 funding. Projects under the Major Infrastructure Component will be selected on the basis of merit by the Federal/Provincial governments, while those under the

Communities Component will be application based and judged on how they meet the goals of the overall program.

For more information on the program, visit <http://www.buildingcanada.gc.ca>. 

