



Government  
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# IMPLEMENTING CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN:

*IMPACTS FOR ABORIGINAL  
AND NORTHERN COMMUNITIES*

AN UPDATE – DECEMBER 31, 2010

CANADA'S ECONOMIC  
**ACTION  
PLAN**



Canada 

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface . . . . .	2	Annex 1 – Summary of Key Aboriginal and Northern Investments under Canada’s Economic Action Plan . . .	35
Introduction . . . . .	2		
Impacts for Aboriginal People and Communities. . . . .	4	Annex 2 – Map of Aboriginal and Northern Investments . . . . .	38
Reporting on Progress and Impacts . . .	5		
• Helping the Unemployed . . . . .	5		
• Building Infrastructure to Create Jobs . . . . .	9		
• Investments in Housing for Canadians . . . . .	15		
• Support for Industries and Communities . . . . .	17		
• Other Initiatives of Importance to Aboriginal People . . . . .	18		
• Investments in Canada’s North . . .	24		
Considerations in Moving Forward. . .	34		



## PREFACE

This update is the sixth in a series of reports providing a comprehensive overview of initiatives for Aboriginal and Northern communities under Canada's Economic Action Plan. This report complements the Government of Canada's *Seventh Report to Canadians*, which was released on January 31, 2011.

The investments and outcomes described in this report demonstrate the actions taken by the Government of Canada towards supporting enhanced health, safety, prosperity and overall well being of First Nations, Inuit, Métis and northern people and communities. Consistent with the previous reports, investments by the Government of Canada that benefit Aboriginal people and northern communities are prominently featured.

In an effort to reveal how important the Economic Action Plan investments have been to Aboriginal communities and their residents, several sections of the report contain highlights from various regions across Canada. These stories, vignettes and regions change in every report.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada would like to acknowledge the numerous federal departments and agencies contributing to these reports and their commitment to supporting the enhancement of the lives, economies and communities of Aboriginal and Northern men, women and children across Canada.

## INTRODUCTION

On January 27, 2009, the Government of Canada released its Economic Action Plan in response to the deteriorating global economic situation. By delivering a \$60 billion investment injection, the plan was designed to stimulate the Canadian economy, protect Canadians during the global recession, and to invest in long-term growth.

The Economic Action Plan is meeting targets by:

- Reducing the Tax Burden for Canadians
- Helping the Unemployed
- Building Infrastructure to Create Jobs
- Creating the Economy of Tomorrow
- Supporting Industries and Communities
- Improving Access to Financing and Strengthening Canada's Financial System



The Government has identified a number of investments designed to meet economic challenges. Underlying all of the investments are three key principles, the investments must be:

- Timely
- Targeted
- Temporary

The most fundamental message underlying the Plan is the need for immediate action. Every effort is being taken to deliver these investments expeditiously while maintaining an appropriate level of oversight and accountability. This approach, and the progress achieved to date, has already been highlighted for Canadians through seven *Reports to Canadians*. Canadians can monitor the progress of the Plan on the Government's website: **monitor the progress of the Plan**

While the majority of Economic Action Plan projects will be completed by March 31, 2011, there are a number of provincial, territorial, municipal and not-for-profit projects that have faced scheduling challenges and would benefit from an additional construction

season for projects to be completed. That is why, on December 2, 2010, Prime Minister Harper announced a onetime seven-month extension to the deadline for completing infrastructure projects, to October 31, 2011, under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, the Building Canada Fund Communities Component Top-Up, the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program and the Knowledge Infrastructure Program. This flexibility recognizes the tremendous effort of the Government's partners over the past two years to deliver on projects. The extension does not apply to other infrastructure programs, including investments in federal and First Nations infrastructure, as well as investments in social housing, which are largely on track.

The seven-month extension is expected to provide sufficient time for virtually all remaining projects to be completed, and will create significant employment opportunities during the summer of 2011. In addition, since the extension applies to projects that have already been approved, there will be no additional costs for taxpayers.



## IMPACTS FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

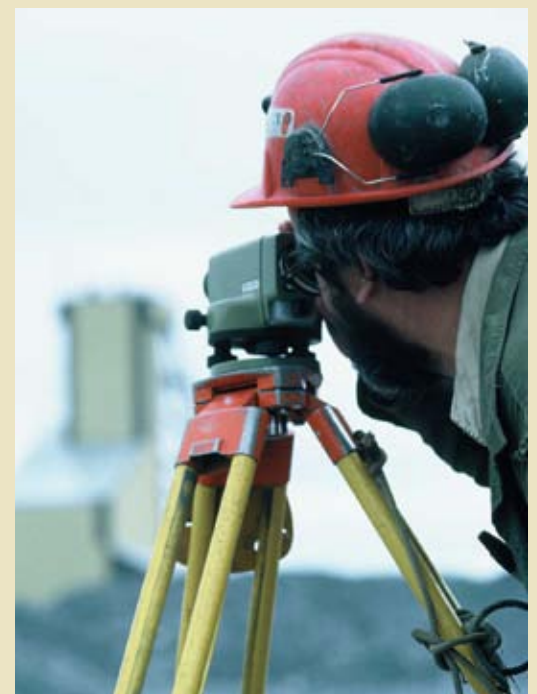
Leading up to Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Prime Minister met with First Ministers on January 16, 2009, to work together on a number of important actions to provide stimulus to the Canadian economy. The day prior, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and First Ministers met with Aboriginal leaders and agreed to:

- Take quick action to ensure the Aboriginal labour force is well prepared for the future with skills training and support; and,
- Identify ways Aboriginal people can benefit from infrastructure projects, by way of employment, skills upgrading, and business opportunities.

The Prime Minister's commitment to promote greater participation of Aboriginal men and women in the Canadian economy and to address the specific challenges and opportunities they face, are well reflected in Canada's Economic Action Plan.

The Plan announced \$1.4 billion in investments over two years related to Aboriginal-specific programming in areas such as skills and training, health, child and family services, housing, educational facilities, policing facilities and water and wastewater systems. The Plan also announced \$500 million dedicated specifically to Northern (Territorial) investments for initiatives such as housing, recreation and other community infrastructure, high arctic research facilities and addressing northern contaminated sites. (See **Annex 1**)

In addition to these targeted investments, there are many other initiatives in the Plan that provide benefits to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people and their communities.



# REPORTING ON PROGRESS AND IMPACTS

## HELPING THE UNEMPLOYED

- *Enhancing the Availability of Training*

Populations that are consistently represented as lagging in the statistical outcomes in areas such as education, employment, health and overall socio-economic status are, not surprisingly, most affected by recession and unemployment.

In efforts to mitigate recession impacts on Aboriginal employment rates, Canada's Economic Action Plan included a number of measures to assist Aboriginal people in finding viable employment and upgrading skills. These measures are well underway and Aboriginal people are seeing results in terms of skills training and employment.

Training and skills development support will be provided to close to 13,000 Aboriginal people through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership and the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund.

### Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership

The Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) is a nationally-managed program geared to providing Aboriginal people with the skills and training they need to participate in major economic developments across Canada.

ASEP helps to develop the skills of the Aboriginal workforce and maximize sustainable employment for Aboriginal people on major projects. This initiative fosters partnerships between Aboriginal organizations, the private sector, provincial and territorial governments and others to create training and employment opportunities. Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada is investing an additional \$100 million over three years for ASEP projects. Twenty projects have been funded and are well on their way to delivering results. For more information on this program, please visit: **Human Resources and Skills Development Canada**



## ABORIGINAL SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP

The following projects represent some of the activities being undertaken through ASEP investments:

- **Moose Cree First Nation, Ontario:** The Sibi Employment and Training initiative is a partnership of Moose Cree First Nation with Ontario Power Generation (OPG), MoCreebec First Nation, Taykwa Tagamou Nation, private sector companies, Aboriginal organizations and accredited education institutions in north eastern Ontario. The project set out to provide skills training to 220 First Nation people for 134 long term skilled job opportunities in hydroelectric construction and camp support services. This project is well on its way to exceeding these targets.
- **Dehcho First Nation, NWT:** Dehcho First Nations Futures Society's Our People, Our Future project will help prepare Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories for employment opportunities created through construction and petroleum exploration and production in the Northwest Territories. Through this project, participants will receive the training and workplace experience required to secure long-term sustainable jobs as aircraft mechanics, automotive technicians, heavy equipment operators, as well as carpentry, electrical and plumbing apprentices and journey persons.

**Saskatoon, SK** - Dave Bona, a framer in the construction industry, learned about the Bridges and Foundations Career Development Corporation training program when he was looking to upgrade his skills. By completing the training, he was able to improve his overall skills and better understand concepts that he uses every day on the job. He also feels confident that he can start his own company in the future, thanks to the support and encouragement of his instructors and colleagues in the program. As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada invested \$2.9 million in the Bridges and Foundations Career Development Corporation through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP).



**Richmond, BC** – Joey Farrar came to Vancouver in 1995 from the Moose Cree First Nation in Northern Ontario and was working in dead-end jobs until she learned about the ASEP trades training programs. As a graduate of the VanAsep CORE program (Construction, Orientation, Retention and Employment), Joey has become a level two apprentice and now has a career in the construction trades. After registering with the British Columbia Industry Training Authority, Joey was accepted recently to the level 3 carpentry program at Kwantlan University where she will continue her training on the road to obtaining her Red Seal in construction. Now employed with Viceroy Homes in Richmond, BC, Joey manufactures pre-fabricated homes for potential home buyers across the province of BC.





## Aboriginal Skills & Training Strategic Investment Fund

The Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF) commitment of \$74 million over two years is strengthening opportunities for employment partnerships and targeting training for Aboriginal people in Canada. Through this program, support is being provided to short-term initiatives designed to help Aboriginal people to receive the specific training they require to benefit from current employment opportunities, including those generated by Canada's Economic Action Plan.

There are both regional and national components to the ASTSIF. The regional component supports training-to-employment projects, skills development projects and service improvement projects on a regional basis. The national component supports initiatives that are national in scope, partnership-based and will result in the development of tools, services or promising practices that will enhance the range of client and business services provided under the successor strategy to the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy (AHRDS).

A total of 74 regional projects and 12 national projects have been approved under ASTSIF falling under the following categories:

- Training-to-employment projects
- Short-term skills development projects

- Service improvement projects.

The following is a sample of regional ASTSIF projects currently underway:

- **Newfoundland and Labrador Training to Employment Partnership Project:** This project is a partnership of Fednay International, Canship Uglund Limited, Tomgat Fish Producers Co-op, Ocean Choice International, local colleges and Aboriginal organizations in Labrador. The project aims to provide institutional training and on the job mentoring to prepare 35 Aboriginal people for 25 long term jobs in the bulk carrier, off-shore resource development and cruise ship sub-sectors of the marine industry.

An example under the national component of ASTSIF of the program is:

- **The Railway Training and Employment Project:** This project is a partnership with the Assembly of First Nations, the Railway Association of Canada and community colleges in British Columbia, Manitoba and northern Ontario. This national project is providing First Nation people with specialized training in the railway industry, such as conductors, signal maintenance technicians and track maintenance workers. To date, 35 participants have or will graduate from conductor school, and 8 graduates are employed with CN and CP. Over 70 participants are expected to be trained by March 31, 2011.



## Transition to the Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training Strategy

Under Canada's Economic Action Plan, \$23 million was spent in 2009-10 to maintain the current Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy (AHRDS) funding until the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) was put into place starting in 2010-11. ASETS will help Aboriginal people receive the training and skills they need that will serve them in the immediate and the long term. This program will focus on three strategic priorities, including supporting demand-driven skills development, fostering partnerships with the private sector and the provinces and territories, and putting emphasis on accountability and results.



## BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE TO CREATE JOBS

- *Investments in First Nations Infrastructure*
- *Investments in Housing for Canadians*
- *An Improved Rail System*

### Investments in First Nations Infrastructure

Canada's Economic Action Plan announced \$515 million over two years to support First Nations community infrastructure projects in three priority areas: schools; water and wastewater projects; and, critical community services infrastructure, such as health and police services facilities. These investments are sparking job creation on-reserve as well as the surrounding areas.

### First Nations Schools

Building and renovating schools on-reserve is providing economic stimulus to communities by generating short-term employment and business opportunities and helps ensure educational facilities meet existing and future educational requirements.

As of December 31 2010, INAC has forecast that \$174 million will be invested over the two-year Economic Action Plan period to support the construction of nine new schools

and three renovation projects. All projects are under construction and one school, the Birch Narrows Dene Nation School in Saskatchewan, is complete. Nine of the twelve school projects will be completed or substantially completed by the end of March 2011. The three remaining school projects will continue into the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year with existing non-Economic Action Plan resources.

This initiative contributes to the Government of Canada's commitment to improve on-reserve student retention and graduation rates. In addition to the benefit of a new or renovated school for students, the projects bring greater community benefit by enhancing local employment, business opportunities and of course, community pride.

Some examples of First Nations school projects include:

- **Burnt Church, New Brunswick:** A new K-8 school, accommodating 120 students, is being constructed. The facility will



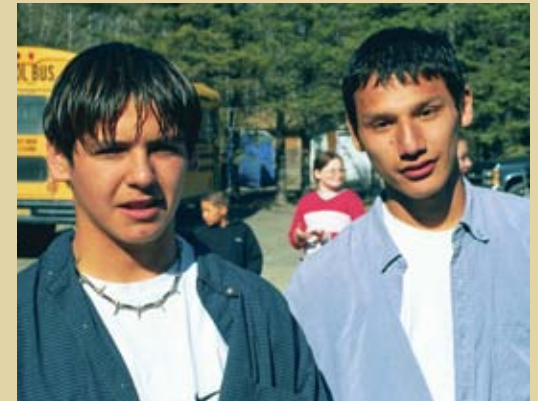
consist of kindergarten classrooms, regular classrooms, a library/resource centre, an auditorium, a computer room, a science room, administration and common areas.

- **Birch Narrows Dene Nation, Saskatchewan:** The construction is complete on a new comprehensive school comprising a total of 3,520 m<sup>2</sup> designed to accommodate 52 nursery/kindergarten students and 281 grades 1-12 students.
- **Little Red River Cree Nation, Alberta:** The project includes the construction of a new K-6 school as well as a retrofit to the existing facility for the grades 7-12 students. Both facilities will accommodate a total of 780 students. The project is under construction with an expected completion date of March 31, 2011.

## NATASHQUAN FIRST NATION, QUEBEC – UAUITSHITUN SCHOOL

In December 2010, the Innu community of Natashquan completed the renovation and expansion of its Uauitshitun School. The project was made possible with an investment of \$9 million under Canada's Economic Action Plan. The Uauitshitun School serves students from kindergarten through secondary. The investment addresses the educational needs of the community by providing permanent classrooms for an expanding student population that had been using portable classrooms for over a decade. "This work is excellent news for the community. In the long run modernizing the school, especially by building new classrooms, will certainly contribute to the success of our youth," stated François Bellefleur, Chief of the Innu community. Construction began in February 2010 and was managed by the First Nation.

The Innu community of Natashquan is located in northern Quebec, about 1,000 kilometres northeast of the city of Québec



## First Nations Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Clean, safe water is a basic requirement for life and is fundamental to healthy and vibrant communities. The water initiative is addressing health and safety priorities in 22 First Nations communities across Canada. It will provide economic stimulus through the generation of employment, the development of skilled trades and contracts for local small businesses. For example, by December 2009, the Black Lake and Fond du Lac Lagoons in Saskatchewan had generated over 10,000 hours of local labour, almost of which half was provided by First Nations people.

The Department has maximized the use of Economic Action Plan funds set aside for water and wastewater projects by selecting

### DID YOU KNOW?

Infrastructure investments provide direct benefits, such as an improved water supply, as well as indirect benefits, including opportunities for training and employment in the ongoing operation and maintenance of the new facilities.

five smaller projects that could be completed by the March 31, 2011 deadline. The additional projects had to meet the selection criteria set by the Department as part of the delivery of Budget 2009 funds. All five additional water and wastewater projects added are currently under construction.

As of December 31, 2010, INAC forecasted that total expenditures for the 23 water and wastewater projects would be approximately \$191 million over two years. Investments in these water and wastewater facilities on-reserve will directly benefit approximately 44,000 First Nations residents.

Some examples of First Nations water/wastewater projects include:

- **Moose Deer Point First Nation, Ontario:** Construction is complete for a new water treatment plant, elevated reservoir, and distribution system that will connect all three fragmented parcels of land which are separated by a wildlife nature reserve, hence providing safe, potable water to residents. The existing homes are located on three discontinuous parcels of land: Isaac Bay has 27 homes; Gordon Bay has 1 home; and King Bay has 39 homes. 77 homes will be served by the new water treatment plant. Future residential development will also be supported through this project.
- **Kahnawake, Quebec:** This community is serviced by its own municipal type network



for water and waste water. The water project is to improve the water treatment capacity as well as the reservoir capacity to meet the needs of the community and applicable standards. This project is currently under construction with an expected completion date of March 31, 2011.

## First Nations Health Infrastructure

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, \$135 million over two years is supporting construction and renovation of health services infrastructure for First Nations communities, including health centres and nurses' residences. Funding for First Nations' health facilities ensures that First Nation communities continue to have access to critical health services and programs delivered in safe and modern facilities.

Sixteen major projects have been completed for First Nations health infrastructure and another 24 projects are underway. Numerous minor renovation projects are also being undertaken to existing First Nations health infrastructure.

The construction of a health centre or a nursing station may create up to 15 jobs, depending upon the size of the facility and the location of the project. Construction to date has involved the employment of a range of skilled trades people like carpenters, electricians, plumbers, welders, machine and equipment operators as well as trades helpers and labourers.

## BLACK LAKE AND FOND DU LAC DENESULINE FIRST NATIONS, SASKATCHEWAN: WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

Construction of two new sewage treatment systems was completed in November 2010 for the growing Denesuline First Nation communities of the Black Lake and Fond du Lac. The projects were made possible through an investment of \$18 million under the Economic Action Plan for design and construction. The new facilities will accommodate increasing capacity to better serve the residents of these growing First Nation communities today and in the future. "The land and the people of northern Saskatchewan are very much connected," said Chief Albert Mercredi of the Fond du Lac First Nation, "modern infrastructure helps protect the health and safety of our members, as well as the environment in which we live."

Black Lake and Fond du Lac are remote communities situated nearly 800 kilometres north of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They have a combined population of approximately 2,400.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The provision of federally funded First Nation and Inuit health services, including community-based health promotion/protection programs, Non-Insured Health Benefits, primary care and home and community care, is supported by an extensive network of federal facilities. These include 77 nursing stations, 222 health centres, 42 alcohol and drug treatment centres, 8 solvent abuse centres, and numerous other health facilities, operational buildings and nurse/staff residences.

First Nation health facilities are being constructed in the following communities:

- **Tobique First Nation, New Brunswick:** A new health facility has been constructed on the Tobique First Nation with a \$3.5 million investment under Canada's Economic Action Plan. This new facility replaces an existing health centre that the community has outgrown. Tobique First Nation is a Maliseet community situated in northwestern New Brunswick, and has an on-reserve population of approximately 1,400 members.
- **Lax Kwa'laams First Nation, British Columbia:** An expansion project to an existing nursing station, made possible by a \$2 million investment under Canada's Economic Action Plan, was completed in the Lax Kwa'laams First Nation. The expansion includes a dental clinic, an expanded treatment area and additional space to accommodate health programs. The community of Lax Kwa'laams is situated approximately 30 kilometres northwest of Prince Rupert, British Columbia.
- **Gull Bay First Nation, Ontario:** The construction of a new health station to replace the current health facility was completed in the Gull Bay First Nation with a \$2.6 million investment under Canada's Economic Action Plan. Gull Bay is an Anishinaabe (Ojibway) community located approximately 175 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, Ontario.



## First Nations Policing Infrastructure

The \$15 million investment over two years for the remediation of critical policing infrastructure in First Nations communities allows for more effective policing, ensuring that First Nations communities are safer and more secure.

Initiatives under Canada's Economic Action Plan for police infrastructure are being cost-shared between the Government of Canada (52 percent) and provinces (48 percent). Seventeen projects have been completed and an additional three projects are underway.

Since the last report, one new project example reports:

- **Sandy Lake First Nation, Ontario:** The community has received funding to construct a new policing facility that will provide much-needed space for police service providers operating in the community. The project is valued at \$2,118,000. Sandy Lake First Nation is situated approximately 600 kilometres northwest of Thunder Bay, Ontario.

## An Improved Rail System

Canada's Economic Action Plan includes \$7.9 million to assist the Keewatin Railway Company in Manitoba and Tshiuetin Rail Transportation in Quebec and Labrador to provide transportation services to remote communities in an efficient, safe and reliable manner. Funding is provided to these railways through the Regional and Remote Passenger Rail Services Class Contribution Program administered by Transport Canada.

Contribution agreements with the two railways were signed in May 2009 and included a total of 11 projects; 7 are complete. Amongst the completed projects is a new passenger waiting station built near Pukatawagan, Manitoba by Keewatin Railway Company. This new waiting station will improve passenger services, allowing accommodation for 50 people and their baggage, as well as a walking platform allowing safe passage to and from the train. Other completed projects by Keewatin Railway Company and Tshiuetin Rail Transportation include the purchase of a locomotive and rail cars, the purchase of track material and equipment, the installation of a new satellite communication system, and the maintenance of the rail track through various repairs.

Projects that are currently underway are expected to be fully complete by March 31, 2011.





## INVESTMENTS IN HOUSING FOR CANADIANS

The Government is committed to supporting the development of individual home ownership on reserves while at the same time many First Nations continue to face significant need for affordable housing, including social housing. Canada's Economic Action Plan provides an opportunity to make progress addressing these needs.

### First Nations Housing

Canada's Economic Action Plan provides \$400 million over two years to support the construction of new on-reserve housing, renovations to existing social housing, and complementary housing activities. These funds are flowing through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and INAC. In 2009-2010, \$198 million was spent on the initiatives. The remaining \$202 million has been allocated for the 2010-2011 projects.

Of the \$400 million, CMHC is delivering \$250 million over two years through the On-Reserve Housing New Construction Initiative for construction of new social housing and the On-Reserve Housing Retrofit Initiative to address the demands for repairs, renovations, energy retrofits, and modifications to address overcrowding of social housing on-reserve.



### FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES BUILD NEW HOMES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is contributing more than \$2.1 million towards subsidies for 11 new housing units in First Nations communities. Of this funding, the Tsleil-Wautuh First Nation will receive more than \$730,000 toward four new housing units. Additionally, the Tla-o-qui-Aht First Nation will receive more than \$1.4 million toward seven units being built under the community's vision of sustainability and innovation. This vision will be realized through shared regional approaches to infrastructure; sensitive siting; energy efficient housing design; and, maximizing use of local materials and labour.



The remaining \$150 million is being delivered over two years by INAC to First Nations for important complementary housing activities such as lot servicing, construction of new high-density multi-unit dwellings, renovating existing housing units, and assisting in the transition of band-owned housing to private ownership.

Overall, housing investments through Canada's Economic Action Plan are supporting approximately 500 First Nations communities across Canada. Further, over 1650 projects have been completed and more than 1500 projects are currently underway.

CEAP housing projects are generating employment opportunities and fostering the development of skilled trades. To date, INAC projects have generated over 1,037,480 hours of work on-reserve. This, in turn, is stimulating small businesses across the country, specifically in many First Nations and neighboring communities.



## SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNITIES

- *Strengthening Partnerships with Aboriginal Canadians*

### Supporting First Nations and Inuit Health Programs

Canada's Economic Action Plan is providing \$301 million over two years to strengthen current health programs, including non-insured health benefits and to ensure around-the-clock availability of nursing services in remote and isolated communities served by Health Canada.

### First Nations Child and Family Services

The Government is continuing to move forward with willing provinces and First Nations in implementing a new prevention-focused tripartite approach for First Nations child and family services on reserves. Canada's Economic Action Plan provides \$20 million over two years to ensure further progress on this strategy.

On August 25 and 26, 2009, the Government of Canada announced that Quebec and Prince Edward Island (PEI) respectively, would be the next jurisdictions to implement the Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach with Canada's Economic Action Plan funding. The Government of Canada is providing \$59.8 million over five years to implement the new approach on reserve in the

Province of Quebec and \$1.7 million over five years in PEI. With this funding, Quebec and PEI were the fourth and fifth jurisdictions to transition to the Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach following Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia.

On July 19, 2010, it was announced that a further tripartite framework was reached between the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and First Nations. This arrangement will result in a federal investment of \$177.1 million investment over the next five years. The announcement in Manitoba brings the total to six provinces that are transitioning to the new prevention focused approach for First Nation child and family services on-reserve.

This funding assists in providing a broader range of prevention services such as in-home supports, respite care and mentoring. The tripartite approach to prevention means families living on-reserve will receive the support and services they need before they reach a crisis situation. This will assist in achieving better outcomes for First Nations children and families. This particular investment supports the Government of Canada's objective to protect the most vulnerable in Canadian society, especially First Nations women and children.



## OTHER INITIATIVES OF IMPORTANCE TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

### Recreational Infrastructure Canada

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada has committed nearly \$500 million over two years to build and renew community recreation facilities across Canada. This funding will be used to support projects geared to the rehabilitation and upgrades of existing facilities. It will also go toward the construction of new facilities that will either add to or replace existing recreational infrastructure assets and/or capacity. In addition to tennis, basketball, volleyball or other sport-specific courts, eligible project categories include gymnasiums, sport fields, parks, fitness trails, bike paths and other multi-purpose facilities that have physical recreation as the primary use.

As noted in the examples provided below, Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) is providing First Nation communities the ability to offer their youth and community members a place to gather, be active, build skills and enhance their overall well-being. As demonstrated, the program has also created employment and supported community economies in the process.

In Saskatchewan, five First Nations are benefiting from RIInC funding. A total of \$1,653,000 was invested to help First Nations communities develop new sport grounds, build a new multi-purpose facility, construct an arena and upgrade existing

recreational facilities. A total of 233 person months of employment was projected to be created. Two of the Saskatchewan initiatives are featured below.

- **Day Star First Nation, Sask:** "Shovel-ready" plans to build new multi-purpose recreational facility meant the project could start quickly. Construction on Day Star took less than six months. Opened in December 2010, the new 6,500 sq. ft. steel structure includes a 1,100 sq. ft. mezzanine that will provide Day Star First Nations with access to on-site recreational and community-based programming that was previously only available offsite. The Government of Canada invested \$250,000 towards the \$976,000 project.
- **Fond du Lac Denesuline Nation, Sask:** With the March 2009 roof collapse of the arena in Fond du Lac, the community lost its primary facility for recreational events and social functions. The community of Fond du Lac notes that it has one of the highest percentages of youth in the North with the lowest crime rate. Without a facility to provide youth with recreational pursuits, the community believed it would struggle to develop appropriate programming.

Funding assistance from the Government of Canada's Recreation Infrastructure Canada program meant the community could replace its arena in a timely manner. The Government



contributed \$1 million towards the \$3.24 million re-construction project. Work is on-schedule to be completed in spring of 2011 with approximately half of the estimated job creation numbers achieved already.

- **Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek (Gull Bay First Nation), Ontario:** The Gull Bay First Nation is benefitting from Canada's Economic Action Plan through investment to improve their skating rink. The outdoor rink was originally built in the Fall 2008 but was completely exposed to nature's elements. Their RInC project consisted of building an enclosure to provide a multi-use component which will allow year-round use to host various recreational events. The community is hopeful that this new facility will encourage their youth to get involved in sports, to stay in school and to be positive role models for the community. The construction began in Fall 2009 and is now completed.

The Government of Canada committed up to \$478,767 towards this project and approximately 30 person-months jobs were created.

- **Nisga'a Village of Gingolx, British Columbia:** The community received \$865,020 under Canada's Economic Action Plan to complete the interior finishing of a recreation centre in Gingolx. Work completed will convert the multi-purpose facility into a useable space that promotes healthy living and houses community

recreational activities. RInC provided support for electrical and mechanical work and the installation of basketball backboards, bleachers, and gymnasium flooring.

Gingolx is a small village with a population of 341 with a reliance on the fishing industry for employment. Construction of the facility will generate 81 person months of employment and provide the remote community with needed improvements to the recreational facility.

## Community Adjustment Fund

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is helping to mitigate the short-term impacts of restructuring in communities through the Community Adjustment Fund. Canada's Economic Action Plan provides \$1 billion over two years for this fund to support small communities (population less than 250,000) to undertake activities such as community transition plans that foster economic development, science and technology initiatives, and other measures that promote economic diversification. The fund is delivered through the regional development agencies, including the newly created Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario and the Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) and Industry Canada - Federal Economic Development for Northern Ontario (FedNor).



Several Aboriginal communities across Canada are undertaking projects under the Community Adjustment Fund, some examples are:

- **Sto:Lo Nation Society, British Columbia:** The community received \$6,758,717 to construct a 24,800 square foot resource centre in Chilliwack. The Centre will provide office space for the delivery of business, cultural, educational and community services delivered by the Sto:Lo Nation, Sto:Lo Community Futures, Sto:Lo Research and Resource Management Centre and the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Tribe Society. In addition to the office space, the services provided by the Centre are available to First Nations throughout the region offering a library, an elders room and classroom facilities.

This project has generated nearly 600 person months of employment during construction and created 16 permanent positions with six more staff expected to be hired. The new infrastructure promotes the diversification of the regional economy and fosters the capacity of the community.

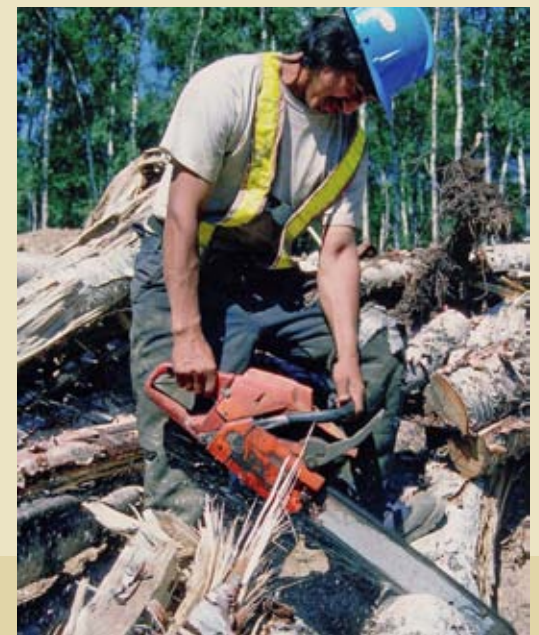
The Sto:Lo Resource Centre was awarded the 2009 Building of Excellence Award from the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce and the 2010 Minister's Award for Excellence and Innovation. The Centre is also one of the only buildings in Chilliwack to achieve Gold certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

**Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Saskatchewan:** Located in north-east Saskatchewan, this First Nation consists of eight communities and has a Band membership of 8,557 people with 3,196 residing on-reserve.

In 2007-2008 Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation's Mee-Toos Forest Products Ltd. employed 61 people; by 2008-2009 that number was reduced to six. A fire that destroyed huge swaths of northern Saskatchewan forests in 2008 was the last thing the struggling forestry sector needed. However, a burned forest still has some value for those willing to do the work.

The Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) was willing. With almost \$2.2 million in assistance from Western Economic Diversification through the Community Adjustment Fund, PBCN was able to put together a salvage operation that turned the burned trees into raw material for fence posts, building logs and saw logs. The logs were cut and peeled onsite and then sent out to facilities for treating. In the process, the PBCN's Mee-Toos Forest Products operation put 32 people to work for six months of the project; a second year of activity now underway. Approximately 65,000 m<sup>3</sup> of softwood material will be processed by the end of the project.

Along with short-term employment now, the project offers other benefits for workers — such as training in the area of post peeling, earning skills that will help workers to move into different areas in the forestry industry.



- **Prince Albert Grand Council, Saskatchewan:** Together with northern communities, the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment will build fire breaks, fuel breaks and greenbelts around 24 at-risk communities in Saskatchewan's Boreal forest ecosystem. The breaks and greenbelts are the major means of fire prevention in the region and their purpose is to reduce the intensity and the spread rate of any oncoming wild fires.

The Government of Canada contributed \$1,964,000 in funding from the Community Adjustment Fund. This fire prevention project is designed to create employment for band members of the PAGC during the fall/winter when few jobs opportunities are available.

The project has proven extremely successful and fire breaks will be developed in four more communities than originally anticipated. The project is on track to create 700 person months of employment over two years. Work is underway in 21 of the 24 communities. Fire breaks in 10 communities were completed by March 31, 2010 and the remainder will be finished by March 31, 2011.

- **Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC), Saskatchewan:** The MLTC is comprised of nine Cree and Dene Bands all located in the Northwest part of the province.

To develop long-term, well-paying jobs for its members, MLTC is partnering with Keewatin Career Development Corp to establish an Information Technology (IT) training program. Graduates, with a broad-range of software training and computer operating systems, will then be able to find local employment with industry, municipalities and other provincial/federal government organizations. Another benefit is that these IT graduates will help to close the technology gap in northern communities.

The Community Adjustment Fund invested \$2.1 million to create up to 290 person months of employment. Through MLTC, graduates will provide IT services to its bands. All of the bands as well as numerous local organizations have expressed interest in the program and the IT services soon to be available.

- **Waswanipi, Northern Québec:** Waswanipi Mishtuk Corporation received support from the Community Adjustment Fund for the modernization and restart of operations of the Nabakatuk sawmill (new equipment, business plan, training program, salaries and others). The project will help to mitigate the impact of the economic downturn by creating jobs and enhance the economic situation and the quality of life in this region.



- **Pic Mobert First Nation, Ontario:** The First Nation received \$80,000 to purchase and install enhanced exterior lighting in the community. Specifically, the project involved standardizing existing lights and erecting new lighting on the two town sites that make up the community, as well as in areas identified as being prone to safety concerns due to lack of adequate lighting. The project has been a community priority for many years and will address personal safety and crime-related concerns.
- **Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation, Ontario:** The First Nation received \$410,060 to retrofit an existing building into a small business complex, named the Pic River Employment & Business Training Centre (“the Centre”). The project created 28.13 person months of employment. As a result of the project, Pic River First Nation is now able to host education and training programs and courses that will help to increase the employability of community members. In the training room, community members have access to five computers with software that assists them in writing business plans. The Centre also provides a place for local artisans to produce, market and sell their arts and crafts. The complex is home to the Peer Lending Group, which provides small business loans to low-income individuals, business support services; Pic River Hydro also leases space in the building.

- **Fort Albany First Nation, Ontario:** The First Nation received \$238,000 to pour a reinforced concrete floor for the community’s public works warehouse building. Prior to this floor being poured, items stored on the ground were often lost due to rot, moisture and spoilage. Most of the community’s goods are received by barge and winter road, which are only available for short periods throughout the year. The new flooring will allow the community to store more goods, instead of having items shipped by air, resulting in cost savings at the community level. The project created four person months of employment.

## Building Canada Fund

Managed by Infrastructure Canada, the Building Canada Fund supports infrastructure projects across the country, both large and small. The Fund was established in 2007 under the Building Canada Plan and has two main components: the Major Infrastructure Component targets larger, strategic projects of national and regional significance; and the Communities Component focuses on projects in communities with populations of less than 100,000 – helping these smaller communities face their unique challenges. Canada’s Economic Action Plan provided an additional \$500 million to the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund. This additional funding was made available for projects that could be completed quickly. As is the case for all projects under the Communities





Component, funding for these additional projects is cost-shared with provinces and municipalities. All funds under the top-up have been committed.

## Broadband – South of the 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel

As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, approximately \$185 million in grants and contribution funds was provided to Industry Canada over three years to develop and implement a strategy to extend broadband coverage to as many un-served and underserved households as possible. By far, the biggest component of this strategy is the Broadband Canada: Connecting Rural Canadians program. The program provides a one-time incentive for the expansion of infrastructure in areas where there currently is no business case for the private sector to deploy on its own.

The deadline for applications to be submitted to the program was October 23, 2009. First Nations who own and operate broadband infrastructure were eligible to apply for this funding. The Broadband Canada program received 570 applications requesting \$1 billion in funding.

As of December 31, 2010, there were 96 active projects involving \$133.1 million and aiming to bring broadband access to an estimated 230,000 households.

Of the 96 projects, 26 will serve First Nations communities. Broadband coverage will be deployed in Alberta (6 projects), B.C (6 projects), Manitoba (3 projects), Ontario (7 projects), and Quebec (4 projects).

## Accelerating Action on Federal Contaminated Sites

Under Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Southern component of the Accelerating Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan is receiving funding of \$33.2 million over two years. In 2010-2011, there are a total of 82 assessment and 16 remediation projects that have planned field work to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Of the 16 accelerated remediation projects, a total of nine are new CEAP remediation projects for this fiscal year. Of the 82 accelerated assessment projects a total of 24 projects are new CEAP assessment project for this fiscal year. These projects are underway in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario.

Increased assessment and remediation activities at federal sites have increased the demand for specialized skilled labour and trades. For example, the Hopetown Indian Reserve 10 Generator Fuel Spill Remediation on Watson Island in British Columbia has created jobs for positions such as engineers, scientists, environmental technologists, archaeologists, cultural and community experts, construction workers, labourers, assistants, etc.



## INVESTMENTS IN CANADA'S NORTH

The North continues to be a key priority for the Government of Canada. Many significant investments in Canada's Economic Action Plan contribute to the aim of Canada's Northern Strategy - to build a strong and sustainable North for Northerners and all Canadians. For more information please visit: **Northern Strategy**

Investing in Canada's North is also of particular importance to Aboriginal people given the high proportion of Aboriginal people who live and work there.

### Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)

Canada's Economic Action Plan invested \$47 million over five years to establish a new Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor). CanNor will help create a prosperous economic future for Northerners. Officially launched on August 18, 2009, CanNor has a strong presence across the North with its headquarters in Iqaluit, regional offices in Iqaluit, Yellowknife and Whitehorse, as well as a liaison office in Ottawa.

As part of CanNor, a Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO) was established in September 2009. The office will support economic development in the three territories by providing a single window for resource development companies into

federal departments' participation in the northern environmental assessment and regulatory processes. NPMO coordinates federal departments' activities, tracks project progress, and maintains the Crown consultation record on northern projects. Through a customer service approach NPMO will employ project management tools to support transparency, predictability and timely decisions.

Since opening its doors in May 2010, with headquarters in Yellowknife, NPMO has accelerated its engagement with clients and partners including industry, territorial governments and northern environmental assessment and regulatory boards. Priorities are:

- Provide guidance to industry on environmental assessment and regulatory processes in territories.
- Finalize tools and business practices for project management, including a Memorandum of Understanding with federal departments and project agreements which include timelines for federal departments' participation in project reviews.
- Work with CanNor and territorial economic development departments to promote community awareness and education related to resource development.



CanNor is also responsible for delivering Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) and the Community Adjustment Fund in the three territories.

## Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC)

**Deline Land Corporation, NWT – Grey Goose Trail Project:** In 2008/2009, Deline Land Corporation began working on a fitness and interpretive trail system. This trail would link traditional trails with new trails and facilities, while showcasing the cultural and historic area of the community and region, including Saoyu and ?ehdacho, the “Birthplace of Hockey”, Fort Franklin, the ski hill, the Grey Goose Lodge, Grey Goose Lake and Great Bear Lake. Deline Land Corporation had a vision for a fitness and interpretive trail system for use by community members, visiting friends and family and tourists. Several partners participated to help the community-run venture succeed: Parks Canada, the Deline Knowledge Centre, NWT Recreation and Parks Association, GNWT’s Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, HRSDC’s Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agency and the Charter Community of Deline.

In the 2008-2009 Phase 1, the \$34,000 from several sources provided material and supplies for picnic tables, benches, picnic area signage, tee pee’s, and a stockpile of gravel to start the initial fitness trail project. The RInC funding allowed for completion of this work in Phase 2 which consists of the 700 meter trail and facilities.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 were so successful, that a Phase 3 was implemented in 2010-2011, and the trail was able to be extended into a full loop of over 1100 meters. RInC provided \$34,668 for Phase 2 for the installation of permanent recreation equipment and completion of Phase 1 activities.

Through this project, 10.5 person months of work were created and all jobs employed local people.

Clifford Carter, Community Development Officer, Deline Land Corporation provided, “the trail builds on some traditional trails while building new sections to link areas of interest that were previously inaccessible. The existing trails are not in good enough shape for fitness activities. By linking points of interest, we hope to encourage people to be more physically active. In the summer, people could use the trail to walk, run, bike and to take their children outside. Because these traditional trails connect to the Grey Goose Lake where there are picnic areas, a dock and a ski hill are located, they will be easier to access by walking than having to drive to. The school can take students out on various activities, that were not available due overgrowth of the traditional trail. In the winter, by connecting to the ski hill, we plan to encourage people to ski right from their homes to the ski hill, keeping people active summer and winter. The ski hill is used year round for family activities, including birthday parties, Bar B Q’s, and family get-togethers. Making it easier to access by other means rather than



using a vehicle, will make this area a lot more family oriented.”

- **Deh Gah School, Fort Providence, NWT – Fort Providence School Community Wellness Initiative:** Fort Providence is a 3 hour drive from Yellowknife, and a 2 hour drive from Hay River; these are the closest regional centres. The Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School, including a library, is in the middle of Fort Providence and serves as the hub of the community.

The Principal of the Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School, Lois Philipp, had been impressed with work done at a Saskatoon, Saskatchewan school where a teacher was proving that students, who were physically active at school, had better success in learning. In Saskatoon, they had installed cardiovascular equipment, such as recumbent bikes, and Lois proposed this approach for the Deh Gah School. As well, outside the School, the playground equipment was more than 20 years old. With the indoor work, the school proposed to upgrade the outdoor playground recreation equipment as well.

When the RInC award was announced, the School had raised \$52,500 or half the funds needed for both the 15 pieces of indoor cardiovascular equipment and the outdoor playground equipment.

Installation of the indoor gym and the outdoor playground equipment provided 3.25 person-months of work, plus a new part-time position

to keep the cardiovascular gym open in the evenings. In place for a year now, students and community members are showing the benefits of the new indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. And the school is a place where visiting friends, relatives and tourists can enjoy for recreation.

Lois Philipp, Principal, Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School provided, “Fort Providence is a predominately aboriginal community and have limited recreational opportunities for youth to participate in without adult supervision. In the evenings, many youth walk around bored. When boredom sets in, our youth find ways to get into trouble. The community is also dealing with high rates of obesity and diabetes. The community/school playground attracts community members to use it with their preschool kids and youth would use it during the evenings, weekends and holidays. By installing both a new playground and having an existing structure rewired (for the gym), we address recreational needs across lifespans.”

- **Hamlet of Aklavik, NWT - Sittichinli Recreational Complex Arena Boards and Flooring Project:** After 24 years, the Stittichinli Recreation Complex’s hockey boards and flooring needed replacement. Other communities had tried cement for arena flooring, but the Hamlet had concerns about cement’s performance on their soils. Through research, they found a rubber flooring material made from recycled tires that could be used all year round for sports, special events and activities.



The Sittichinli Arena had been always been very well maintained by the Hamlet, however, the original flooring and boards needed replacement. The Hamlet had been fundraising for a new floor and boards for the arena for five years. In 2009, the Hamlet knew the arena work had to be started. Researching the most cost-effective way to do things, bringing in gravel on the winter road was cheapest. The local people working on the arena were creative in making things work, and in saving money. When the gravel trucks arrived, rather than dump the gravel and later move it into the arena, the area of the doorway was excavated and the gravel trucks were able to drive right in with their loads – cutting time and costs.

When the Recreation Infrastructure Canada program was announced, the Hamlet applied for and received funds to complete the work. When the RInC funding became available, a decision was also made to use as much local labour as possible. Aside from the flooring, all other labour and services were provided locally. In the end, 20 person-months of work were created, plus 3 person months of contracted work.

The entire project cost \$503,818.13. RInC provided \$200,138. Fundraising, good planning and project management had been so successful, that there were fundraising proceeds to install new bleachers, assist with program planning and implementation, and help toward completion of a baseball diamond and playground area.

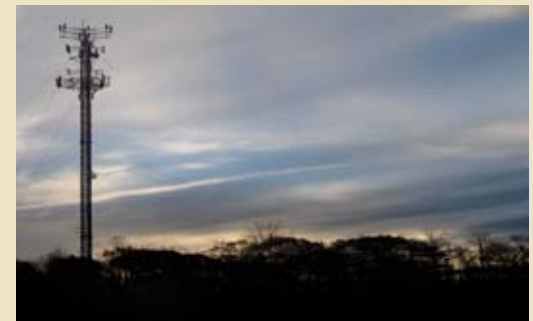
The newly renovated arena opened in October 2009. Employment is provided to the facility

maintainer as well as the recreation staff. Other communities have viewed the Sittichinli Arena flooring and its success, and are considering replicating Aklavik's efforts in their communities.

Evelyn Storr, Senior Administrative Officer, Hamlet of Aklavik provided, “when communities our size are made aware of such programs (Recreation Infrastructure Canada) we hope that the information provided will give us access to these funds. Many times when the final decisions are made in Ottawa, communities such as ours never get any benefits from these programs as our applications never seem to get considered, because maybe we forgot some area, and please understand that not all communities have the resource people to assist us with applications. The Hamlet does not have access to any additional funding from Municipal and Community Affairs to assist us with such huge projects. The Hamlet's recreation department has been fundraising for this huge project for many years and was very excited to see the Recreation Infrastructure Funds become available.”

## Broadband – North of the 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel

In addition to the 26 projects that will bring broadband connectivity to First Nations communities south of the 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel, the Broadband Canada program has conditionally approved funding for 4 projects North of 60. One project in Nunavut will provide coverage to approximately 9,300 households, while 3



additional projects in the Northwest Territories will serve approximately 1,550 households.

## Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development

CanNor's cornerstone investment in the North is the Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED) program. The Economic Action Plan included \$90 million over five years for the renewal of the SINED program to stimulate long-term economic development in the territories. New five-year territorial investment plans, developed with extensive stakeholder input, were approved in August 2009.

SINED applications are accepted on a continuous basis. As of the end of August, 2010, 83 projects representing \$11.6 million had been approved. SINED focuses on foundational investments in the economies of the territories, including geo-science projects to improve the understanding of the North's mineral and energy resources.

Key expected outcomes include increased publicly accessible knowledge, expanded multi-user economic infrastructure and more business and employment opportunities available to Northerners.

## Canadian High Arctic Research Station Feasibility Study

Science and technology play an important role in reinforcing Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic by helping to achieve economic, environmental and strategic objectives in the North. Canada's Economic Action Plan laid the groundwork for delivering on the Government's commitment to build a new, world-class Canadian High Arctic Research Station. INAC was allocated \$2 million over two years to conduct a feasibility study for the Station. The Station will serve as a hub for scientific activity in Canada's Arctic region and will be built in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut on the Northwest Passage.

Budget 2010 provided \$18 million over five years to INAC to undertake the pre-construction design phase for the Station. The Station will be built in five to seven years and be open for Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017.

## Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund

To support the new Canadian High Arctic Research Station, the Government allocated \$85 million over two years from the Economic Action Plan to the Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund, to maintain or upgrade 20 key existing research facilities at 46 sites across Canada's North. This investment will ensure that a robust network of infrastructure is in place across Canada's vast Arctic when the Station opens.



More than half of the projects are led or co-led by Northerners. These investments have created jobs for Northerners in the short term and will improve the quality of life for Northern residents for many years to come as scientific, technological, and Indigenous knowledge are used to advance both social and economic goals.

Of the 46 sites, over two thirds were substantively completed as of December 31, 2010. A number of projects have successfully incorporated green technologies into facility designs which will help to reduce the significant costs of ongoing operations in the North. All projects are set to be complete by March 31, 2011.

Examples of projects include:

- **Arctic Institute of North America:** Receiving up to \$3,393,000 to renovate and upgrade the Kluane Lake Research Station. The station, built in 1961, is at the southern tip of Kluane Lake. For nearly 50 years, the facility has supported a wide variety of research including glaciology, geomorphology, geology, geography, ecology, botany, zoology, hydrology, limnology, climatology, high-altitude physiology, anthropology, and archaeology. The station has been an anchor for science in this region with a long tradition of fostering major interdisciplinary science programs. Funding has allowed for the renovation and upgrading of several existing buildings with increased accommodation, storage, as well as laboratory space at both the base site and associated field sites. Improvements

are bringing the buildings and services up to modern standards and better meeting increased needs. The project has generated interest and engagement of the surrounding communities. Discussions are ongoing with respect to engaging representation from the three local First Nations (Champagne and Aishihik First Nation, Kluane First Nation, and the White River First Nation) as well as of the Yukon College in a joint advisory board for the Station.

- **Vuntut Gwitchin First Nations**  
**Government:** Allocated up to \$2,044,950 for the renovation and expansion of the Old Crow Research Facility in North Yukon. The Old Crow community has long welcomed researchers and visitors to its traditional territory since the 1920s. The facility has a significant collection of artifacts, fossils, and oral and recorded data that is of global importance. In recent years, the demand from many universities across North America to conduct research in or near Old Crow has increased. The funding is allowing the community of Old Crow to continue hosting researchers with the renovation and expansion of a small facility. The upgraded facility is also housing the Old Crow Paleontological collection for academic and government researchers. Renovations have expanded space to house the science logistics equipment of various users including: academics, the Vuntut Gwitchin Government's Natural Resource Department and Parks Canada.



- Nunavut Arctic College:** Receiving up to \$11M towards a new facility for the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). For over 30 years, the NRI has provided multidisciplinary scientific support for field work and licensing. Its location in Iqaluit makes it a logistical hub for scientists working in the eastern Arctic. Despite its active use over 30 years, the Iqaluit Research Centre had never been significantly renovated or upgraded. This funding is allowing NRI to replace the old facility with two new buildings that will be larger, more modern, more energy efficient and have greater capacity for NRI's expansion of its current research activities and services in the health, natural, and social sciences; field logistical support units have also been installed in Arviat, Igloodik and laboratories in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. This supports further research excellence not just in the physical and natural sciences and technology development, but in the social and health sciences, including development of methods to document and apply traditional Inuit Knowledge. The Environmental Technology Program (ETP) share one of the new buildings with NRI. This is an ideal position to provide support for Inuit student research and training in ecological assessment and environmental protection. This also provides the conditions necessary for Inuit students to have more meaningful interactions with the various researchers and scientists conducting their research in Iqaluit,

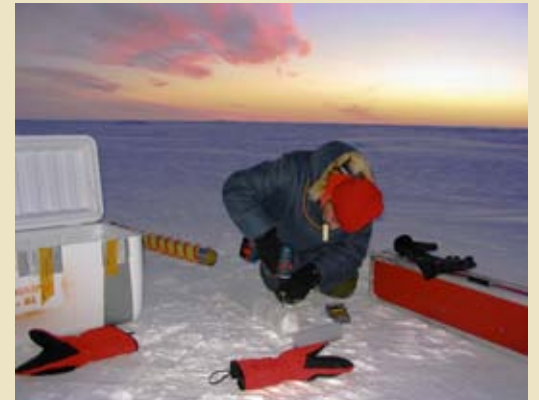
thereby developing local capacity for Northerners and Canadians to participate in world-class interdisciplinary research projects.

## Infrastructure Stimulus Fund

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government established a 4 billion dollar Infrastructure Stimulus Fund that provides funding to provincial, territorial, municipal and community construction-ready infrastructure projects. This fund, which is managed by Infrastructure Canada, complements existing federal infrastructure funding by focusing on short-term objectives for economic stimulus. Subject to project readiness and merit, funding was allocated to projects in provinces and territories based on their population.

- Whitehorse, Yukon - Improving Cultural Infrastructure in Northern Communities:** The Guild Hall is the premier venue for community theatre in Whitehorse and hosts three to four Guild Society performances per season. Other community groups, such as the Northern Lights School of Dance, also use the facility for rehearsals and shows.

After 30 years of use and no major upgrades, the building had deteriorated considerably and required extensive renovations. These renovations are now well under way thanks in part to a federal contribution through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund.





The work will ensure the building is up to code and accessible to everyone, and includes new windows, siding, insulation, and heating and ventilation systems that will improve energy efficiency.

Upgraded amenities and a more modern look will help to attract a wider audience to the hall and allow the Guild Society and other community groups to focus their resources on performances rather than the challenges of maintaining an aging building.

- **Green Infrastructure Fund:** Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government made available \$1 billion over five years under the Green Infrastructure Fund (GIF) to support projects related to sustainable energy generation and transmission, municipal wastewater and solid waste management infrastructure.

To date, 18 projects have been announced with a total federal commitment of \$627 million. Provinces, territories, municipalities and the private sector are also contributing to the projects, thereby bringing the total investment to more than \$1.9 billion.

One of the announced projects is located in the Yukon. The Green Infrastructure Fund is providing \$71 million for upgrades to the Mayo B hydro generation facility and the completion of the Carmacks-Stewart transmission line.

## Small-Craft Harbour Construction in Pangnirtung, Nunavut

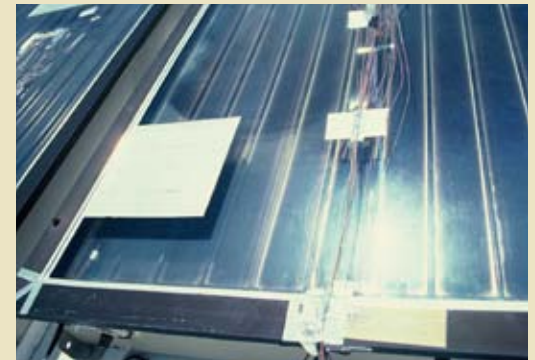
Canada's Economic Action Plan allocated \$17 million for construction of a small craft harbour in Pangnirtung, Nunavut; it is the first of its kind in the territory and is progressing well.

The objective of this project is to provide improved infrastructure to the existing commercial fishery, provide a basis to further develop the inshore fisheries, and support other community marine interests.

Phase One entails dredging a small vessel basin, constructing a marshalling area and the west breakwater, plus the purchase and installation of floating docks for small vessels. To date, a first group of floating docks has been purchased and delivered on site, the breakwater has been constructed and the basin dredging and marshalling are approximately 50% complete. The equipment is on site and the work will be completed in the 2011 construction season.

## Accelerating Action on Northern Contaminated Sites

Under Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Northern component of the **Accelerating Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan** is receiving funding of \$24.2 million over 2 years. This



includes \$2 million for program management expenses, \$1.2 million for the assessment of suspected contaminated sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and \$21 million for remediation activities at Giant Mine.

As of December 31, 2010, this initiative achieved its goal of completing 106 site assessments in 2009-10 and 175 site assessments 2010-11. CEAP assessment funding was split between the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. In addition, CEAP funding for remediation activities has taken place at the Giant Mine, ongoing from 2009-2010. This work includes detailed engineering designs; and continued monitoring and work on the Freeze Optimization Study (FOS). Major site activities include commissioning of a freeze plant; installation of new power lines/substation; and installation of instrumentation for the FOS around Chamber #10. Results of the FOS are expected to be available in 2010-2011 and will be used as input into the ongoing detailed engineering and design process.

As with other stimulus activities, creating jobs in Northern communities is an important element of this initiative. The Giant Mine project has supported 59 positions with 15 of these dedicated to completing accelerated work.

Estimates suggest that approximately 60% of direct and indirect employment positions stemming from work on contaminated sites in the North are currently held by Aboriginal people and/or Northerners. The redevelopment

of contaminated sites also aims to improve the quality of life for Canadians and future generations by eliminating the possibility of exposure to potentially harmful contaminants.

## Investments in Housing for Northerners

Having a safe and affordable place to call home is important to Canadian families and their communities. Recognizing the distinctive housing needs in the North, Canada's Economic Action Plan has provided \$200 million over two years in dedicated federal funding for the renovation and the construction of new social housing units across Northern Canada.

The Yukon and Northwest Territories were each allocated \$50 million, while the remaining \$100 million was allocated to Nunavut where the need for new social housing is greatest. Under the Northern Housing initiative, cost-sharing by the territories is not required. In addition, Canada's Economic Action Plan also includes funding of more than \$12.5 million, matched by the three territories, to build new housing for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities and to renovate and retrofit existing social housing. This funding is distinct from the \$4 million that the Yukon is receiving for First Nations housing.



To ensure a quick start to construction, funding is being delivered through amendments to existing agreements between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the territories under the Affordable Housing Initiative. Through the amended agreements, the territories are responsible for program design and delivery.

These investments are making a difference in northern communities and strengthening local economies within the North. With 210 projects underway or complete across the territories, this investment is bringing jobs and affordable housing solutions to address the immediate and significant need in Canada's Northern communities. An example of the Northern Housing investment follows:

- **Fort McPherson, Northwest Territories:** Upgrading social housing through Canada's Economic Action Plan; The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation received almost \$200,000 in federal funding to make general improvements to 103 units of social housing in the Hamlet of Fort McPherson. Repairs include energy-efficiency upgrades or conversions, and modifications to support people with disabilities.



“The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Government of Canada to improve the quality of housing throughout the Northwest Territories.” - Robert C. McLeod Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs



## CONSIDERATIONS IN MOVING FORWARD

As noted in previous reports, the Government has moved quickly to expend funding commitments and generate activity in the Canadian economy. The Government has taken concrete measures to streamline processes to ensure early decisions on project selection, expedient tendering and contracting and to ensure that infrastructure projects take full advantage of a short and challenging construction season in many parts of the country. We are pleased to report that the majority of projects in Aboriginal communities are either complete or near completion.

The Government of Canada will continue to play a leadership role in ensuring that these initiatives identified in Canada's Economic Action Plan are implemented in an effective and rapid manner and that the results are conveyed to all Canadians, through updates and reports such as this one.

In addition to the direct impacts of investments made through the Economic Action Plan, important partnerships have been forged and greater efficiencies achieved. In particular, several community projects received joint investments from the Federal Government, municipalities, provinces/territories and Aboriginal communities.

Overall, these efforts are helping to minimize the effects of the economic downturn. As we move forward, it is important to ensure that these and all future investments provide lasting economic, cultural, and social benefits on which Aboriginal and northern communities can build even greater growth and prosperity.



# ANNEX I: SUMMARY OF KEY ABORIGINAL AND NORTHERN INVESTMENTS UNDER CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

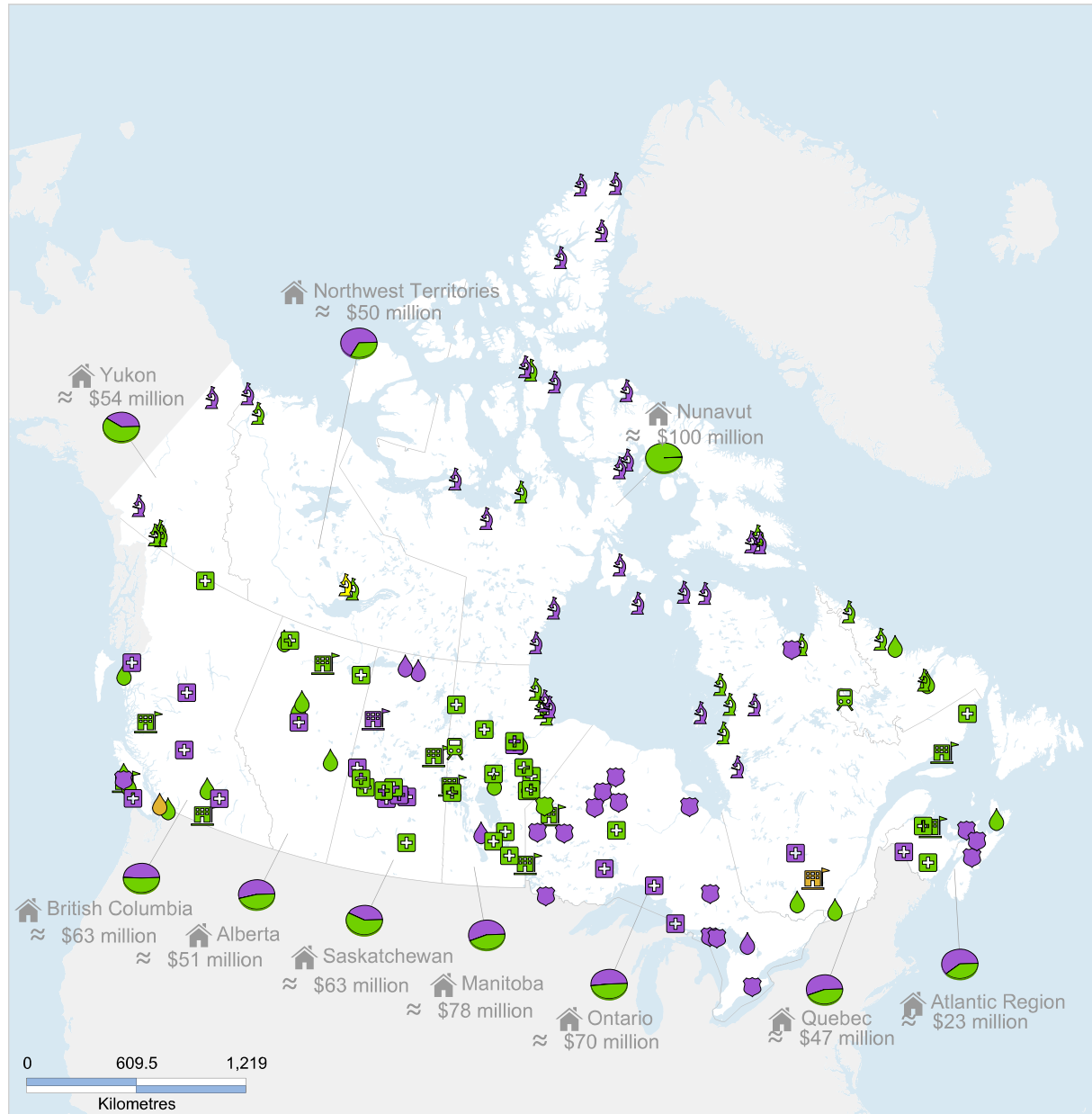
## CANADA'S ECONOMIC INITIATIVES - ABORIGINAL INVESTMENTS

Initiative	Funding	Lead Department	Description
<b><i>Enhancing the Availability of Training</i></b>			
Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP)	\$100M/3yr	Human Resources and Social Development Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASEP is a nationally managed, opportunity-driven, and project-based program that promotes increased participation of Aboriginal people in major economic developments through formalized partnerships of Aboriginal organizations, private sector employers, and provincial/territorial governments.</li> </ul>
Aboriginal Skills & Training Strategic Investment Fund	\$74M/2yr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support short-term initiatives designed to help Aboriginal people get the specific training, including those generated by the stimulus package.</li> <li>This fund has been an important step as HRSDC transitioned to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS).</li> </ul>
Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS)	\$23M/1yr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AHRDS funding was maintained until its successor, the new Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) was put in place in April 2010.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Investments in Housing for Canadians</i></b>			
First Nations Housing (INAC)	\$150M/2yr	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada/ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds will flow through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to support new social housing, remediation of existing social housing stock and complementary housing activities, including the transition to market-based housing.</li> </ul>
First Nations Housing (CMHC)	\$250M/2yr		
<b><i>Investments in First Nations Infrastructure</i></b>			
School construction	\$174M/2yr	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding will be used to build and renovate schools on-reserve to generate short-term employment and business opportunity while helping educational facilities to improve student retention and graduation rates.</li> </ul>
Water & Wastewater projects	\$191M/2yr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding is for the completion of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.</li> </ul>
Improved Rail Service (Keewatin & Tshciuetin)	\$7.9M/2yr	Transport Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding supports several capital projects of two First Nations railways: the Keewatin Railway Company and Tshciuetin Rail Transportation. These railways provide rail services to communities that do not have alternate year-round transportation access.</li> <li>Projects, amongst others, include track maintenance, a new locomotive, a new passenger station, and new equipment.</li> </ul>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b><i>Critical Community Services</i></b>			
Health clinics and Nurses' residences	\$135M/2yr	Health Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for the construction and renovation of Health Services Infrastructure for First Nation</li> </ul>
Policing facilities	\$15M/2yr	Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding to address the remediation of critical policing infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Strengthening Partnerships</i></b>			
FN & Inuit Health Programs	\$301M/2yr	Health Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding will ensure that non-insured health benefits for eligible First Nations and Inuit and nursing services in remote and isolated First Nations communities continue to be available</li> </ul>
FN Child & Family Services	\$20M/2yr	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government is committed to continue implementation of a new province-specific, prevention focused approach for First Nation child and family services on reserve.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Northern Investments</i></b>			
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)	\$47M/5yr	CanNor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding was used to establish a new economic development agency with the mandate of laying the groundwork for a prosperous economic future for those who live, work and support their families in the North. CanNor will fulfill the same function as other regional economic development agencies. It will coordinate and deliver federal economic development activities in the North while also fulfilling a policy, research, and advocacy role.</li> </ul>
Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED)	\$90M/5yr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This suite of programs will stimulate long-term economic development across the territories.</li> </ul>
Community Adjustment Fund (CAF)	Territorial allocation of \$32.8M/2yr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This investment will help mitigate the short-term impacts of economic dislocation in communities across the territories.</li> </ul>
Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC)	Territorial allocation of \$2M/2yr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding will share the costs to repair, upgrade, or expand recreational facilities of select recreational infrastructure projects in the territories.</li> </ul>

Initiative	Funding	Lead Department	Description
Infrastructure Stimulus Fund	\$12.6M	Infrastructure Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For 38 projects in the Territories.</li> <li>Provides funding to provincial, territorial, municipal and community construction-ready infrastructure projects. The Fund complements existing federal infrastructure funding by focusing on short-term objectives for economic stimulus.</li> </ul>
Green Infrastructure Fund	\$71M for the Mayo B Hydro Facility and Carmacks-Stewart Transmission Line in Yukon		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1B/5 years fund - nationally</li> <li>For The Green Infrastructure Fund supports projects in the following categories: wastewater infrastructure; green energy generation infrastructure; green energy transmission infrastructure and solid waste infrastructure, and carbon transmission and storage infrastructure.</li> </ul>
High Arctic Research Station Feasibility Study	\$2M/2yr	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding will support a feasibility study for a High Arctic Research Station that will serve as a hub for scientific activity across Canada's Arctic.</li> </ul>
Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund (ARIF)	\$85M/2yr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding will support the upgrading of key existing research facilities across Canada's Arctic, providing economic stimulus and support for strong research capacity.</li> </ul>
Small-craft harbour construction in Pangnirtung, Nunavut	\$17M/2yr	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding will ensure accelerated construction of the small-craft harbour in Pangnirtung, Nunavut to support the community's commercial fishery.</li> </ul>
Northern Contaminated Sites	\$24.2M/2yr	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding will support assessments and work on Northern contaminated sites. This will improve the quality of life for Northerners and future generations by eliminating the possibility of exposure to potentially harmful contaminants.</li> </ul>
Northern Housing	\$200M/2yr (\$100M for Nunavut; \$50M for NWT; \$50M for Yukon)	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government is committed to ensuring Northerners have safe and affordable housing. Funding will support the renovation and construction of new social housing units in the territories. Since the core housing need is greatest in Nunavut, \$100 million of the investment will be allocated to the territory. The Yukon and NWT will each receive \$50 million of the investment.</li> </ul>

# ANNEX 2: MAP OF ABORIGINAL AND NORTHERN INVESTMENTS



### Legend

**Investments**

- Housing by Region**  
\$600 million / 2 years
- Water and Wastewater**  
\$191 million / 2 years
- Schools**  
\$174 million / 2 years
- Arctic Research Infrastructure Projects**  
\$85 million / 2 years
- Rail Service**  
\$7.9 million / 2 years
- Health Infrastructure**  
\$135 million / 2 years
- Police Infrastructure**  
\$15 million / 2 years

**Status**

- Project Announced**
- Agreement Signed / Tendered**
- Project / Construction Initiated**
- Construction Completed**

CartoVista

As of December 31, 2010