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Infrastructure's 2003-04 Annual Report focuses on growth and preservation

Edmonton... Two new state-of-the-art health research facilities and a \$110-million investment in Alberta schools top the list of activities in Alberta Infrastructure's 2003-04 Annual Report.

"In 2003-04, we set a new course with the introduction of the Government of Alberta's first three-year Capital Plan. This has made it easier to plan for the infrastructure needs of our growing province and ensure that funding is predictable," said Infrastructure Minister Ty Lund. "We know how highly Albertans value their schools, hospitals and post-secondary institutions and we made some important gains this past year in upgrading, preserving and building those facilities."

Highlights of the 2003-04 Annual Report

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- \$220-million was provided for the construction of Health Research and Innovation Centres at the Universities of Alberta and Calgary, to enhance Alberta's research capabilities and support economic development.
- Nearly \$110-million was allocated for 177 school capital funding projects, including the approval of 25 new schools. The other projects supported modernizing and upgrading existing schools all over the province.
- The Health Sustainability Initiative was launched, providing \$59-million to health authorities over three years. The initiative ensures the best use of existing facilities by providing funding to reallocate space or remodel to accommodate new service delivery methods.
- All previously deferred capital projects were reinstated, including major projects such as the Alberta Heart Institute, the North Treatment Centre at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, the Children's Hospital, and the Alberta Bone and Joint Institute.
- In recognition of excellence in resource preservation and environmentally sound commercial building management, Alberta Infrastructure won the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Canada National Earth Award for the Alberta Research Council facility. It marked the first time an Alberta Government facility won at the national level.

The Alberta Infrastructure Annual Report is available online at www.infras.gov.ab.ca or by calling (780) 427-2187.

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