

April 13, 2005

Record \$9.2 billion investment in infrastructure builds Alberta for the future

South Calgary Hospital and Health Sciences Ambulatory Learning Centre in Edmonton get green light for construction

Highlights

- \$9.2 billion invested in infrastructure over the next three years, including:
 - \$3.1 billion invested in municipal infrastructure
 - Nearly \$2 billion invested in highway construction
 - \$1.6 billion invested in health facilities and equipment
 - \$1.1 billion invested in schools and post-secondary institutions

Edmonton... Alberta will invest a record \$9.2 billion over the next three years in roads, schools, health facilities and municipal infrastructure to build strong communities and support the future growth of the province.

This three-year commitment, outlined in the province's 2005-08 Capital Plan, represents an increase of \$2.7 billion over the 2004-07 Capital Plan.

"This commitment is unprecedented in Alberta and unparalleled in Canada," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "It will ensure that Albertans have access to better highways, new and enhanced schools, and state-of-the-art health and post-secondary facilities. It will also ensure municipalities are able to address their own local transportation and infrastructure needs."

Municipalities receive huge infrastructure funding boost

Budget 2005 follows through on government's \$3 billion commitment to municipalities to address local infrastructure priorities. The \$3 billion grant will be provided to municipalities over the next five years at \$600 million per year. Municipalities can spend the funds over the next 10 years on projects including new roads, repaving, bridge repairs, sewer upgrades, water treatment facility expansions, and recreational facilities.

With this new infrastructure funding, municipalities will receive more than \$1 billion a year over the next three years through infrastructure grants, transportation funding, city improvement funding, wastewater partnerships, and rural infrastructure funding.

More money to improve roads, schools and health facilities

Alberta is also committing \$684 million in 2005-06 on highway construction and enhancements, for a total of almost \$2 billion over the next three years. This includes funding to continue work on the ring roads in Edmonton and Calgary, enhance the highway system around Fort McMurray, and improve highways in

rural Alberta.

A total of \$1.6 billion will be invested in health facilities and equipment over the next three years, beginning with \$561 million in 2005-06. The three-year total includes funding to commence construction of the South Calgary Hospital and the Health Sciences Ambulatory Learning Centre in Edmonton; complete expansions and upgrades to facilities in Edson, Lethbridge and Rimbey; and continue redevelopment of the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, the Red Deer Regional Hospital, and the Peter Lougheed Hospital and Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary.

Government will also invest \$111 million this year and \$469 million over the next three years in post-secondary capital projects. This includes funding to begin or complete projects at the University of Alberta, Grant MacEwan College, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Red Deer College, Lethbridge Community College, and Medicine Hat Community College.

The 2005-08 health facilities and post-secondary capital allocations also include funding to commence construction of two major projects. Work will begin on constructing the South Calgary Hospital, which will improve access to health services in the Calgary Region. As well, construction will begin on the Health Sciences Ambulatory Learning Centre in Edmonton, a joint-use facility that will improve access to Capital Health ambulatory clinics and be integrated with the University of Alberta's health sciences programs.

Government will invest \$644 million on school capital projects over the next three years, including \$201 million in the first year. This includes funding to complete or start more than 100 previously committed modernization and expansion projects, including the construction of 45 schools around the province.

- 30 -

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Bart Johnson
Director of Communications
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
(780) 415-1841

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Alberta Government Home | Ministries Listing | Infrastructure and Transportation Home Page | News Releases [Top of Page](#)

Send us your comments or questions

Copyright(c); 2005 Government of Alberta

Return to [Government Home Page](#)