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Resource industry benefits from increased roadway investment

Edmonton... The Alberta government will invest an additional \$34 million in municipal resource roads and another \$116 million for provincial highways that support the resource industry.

With the \$34 million injection, municipalities will have access to a total of \$51 million through the province's Resource Road Program in 2007-08, triple the program's original budget of \$17 million.

The additional \$116 million for provincial highways will be used to improve three-digit highways (formerly known as secondary highways) that support resource and industry-related activities.

"The Alberta government is committed to supporting the economic growth of the province," said Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "The additional funding will go a long way to improving our resource and industry-related roadways that help support Alberta's ongoing economic development."

The Resource Road Program provides cost-shared grants to municipalities on the basis of 50 per cent government and 50 per cent municipal contribution. It applies to local roads and bridges, including intersection improvements with provincial highways. To qualify, roads must be open for use by all publicly licensed vehicles and not be subject to any municipal user fees.

The \$150 million total increase in funding for roads and highways is in addition to the record \$3.9 billion the province is spending over the next three years for the construction and preservation of Alberta's highway network.

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