

Managing growth pressures

October 18, 2007

Province invests \$1 million in Red Deer facilities upgrades

Projects at Remand Centre, Michener Centre and Marwayne Building part of \$350-million government commitment to upgrade infrastructure

Red Deer... The province is investing \$1 million in three provincial infrastructure projects in Red Deer to reduce operating and maintenance costs and cut emissions.

The Red Deer Remand Centre will receive two new boilers to ensure it has a reliable heating source for many years to come. Upgrades to the Roland Michener Centre roof will eliminate the risk of leaks which could lead to interior damage and increased repair costs. The 112 Marwayne Avenue Building will receive new, modern and efficient boilers that will reduce the building's operating and maintenance costs and ensure a reliable heating supply.

"Homeowners know that failing to address maintenance problems now will only lead to bigger problems down the road," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "For the same reason, it's critical that government properly maintains its own facilities."

"By investing in its facilities, government is investing in the communities they serve," said Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA for Red Deer-North. "Keeping up on maintenance is a smart investment strategy that benefits all taxpayers."

The projects are part of a \$350-million commitment by government to fix and maintain more than 100 schools, hospitals, post-secondary facilities and government buildings across the province.

"While it is important to build new infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing province, it is also critical that we ensure the buildings we already have are well maintained and in good working order," said Gene Zwozdesky, Associate Minister of Capital Planning. "We have been working very closely with communities and stakeholders to determine their capital maintenance needs. This funding is a big step toward addressing those needs."

This funding is one of the actions under the Stelmach government's plan to manage growth pressures. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, improve Albertans' quality of life, build a stronger Alberta, and provide safe and secure communities.

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