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Lethbridge Courthouse and Sifton House get \$300,000 for upgrades

Investments are part of overall plan to refurbish provincial infrastructure

Lethbridge... Two provincial facilities in Lethbridge will receive a combined estimated \$300,000 in upgrades, thanks to recently announced infrastructure maintenance funding by the Alberta government.

"Albertans know that preventative maintenance saves money in the long run, and so does their government," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "We're taking a proactive approach to prolonging the life of provincial facilities, and that makes good business sense."

The Lethbridge Courthouse will receive an estimated \$200,000 toward major renovations to six public washrooms, including the addition of new, water-conserving fixtures and barrier-free access. At Sifton House, the kitchen exhaust system will be replaced at a cost of \$100,000. The old system is not functioning properly and interferes with the operation of other building ventilation systems. Work on both projects is expected to start immediately and be complete by March 2008.

"These investments demonstrate the Stelmach government's commitment to renewing our infrastructure," said Clint Dunford, MLA for Lethbridge-West. "Government is focusing its investments on local needs across the province."

These 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 have already are well maintained, safe 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."

Renewing provincial infrastructure is part of Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity.

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Media enquiries may be directed to:

Clint Dunford MLA for Lethbridge-West 403-329-4644 Darcy Scott, Communications Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation 780-422-1173

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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