

Administration

INFRASTRUCTURE - Staff Report A-049/09

March 9, 2009

The Government is supporting provincial, territorial, and municipal infrastructure by expediting priority projects under the \$33-billion Building Canada plan, cutting red tape and providing significant new funding for provincial, territorial and municipal infrastructure projects that will get underway over the next two years.

Investments in Provincial, Territorial and Municipal Infrastructure

Building on previous infrastructure commitments, Budget 2009 invests in a more modern and greener infrastructure by:

- Establishing a two-year, \$4-billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund that will provide funding to renew infrastructure.
- Providing \$1 billion over five years for the Green Infrastructure Fund to support projects such as sustainable energy.
- Providing \$500 million over two years to build and renew community recreation facilities across Canada.
- Accelerating up to \$1 billion in payments over two years under the Provincial-Territorial Base Funding Initiative to expedite "ready-to-go" infrastructure projects.
- Providing up to \$500 million over the next two years for infrastructure projects in small communities.

The Town of Ingersoll submitted Clark Side Road under the Building Canada Plan. Unfortunately, we were not successful. It is recommended when the next round for projects opens up that the Town resubmit this project. It is not clear yet whether or not the Federal Government will funnel the stimulus package through the Building Canada Plan organization. Staff will be working on the design of the Clark Side Road to ensure that it is shovel ready.

Recreational Infrastructure Canada

There are thousands of community recreational facilities across Canada, including hockey arenas, soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts, and swimming pools. Many of these facilities were built in 1967 to help mark Canada's Centennial year, and are now in need of upgrading and renewal.

Budget 2009 provides \$500 million over two years to support construction of new community recreational facilities and upgrades to existing facilities across Canada. Eligible facilities include recreational facilities owned by municipalities, First Nations, counties, community organizations and other not-for-profit entities. The initiative will support up to 50 per cent of the total cost of eligible projects, with the balance to be provided by provincial and municipal governments, community organizations, and the private sector.

This national initiative is expected to provide local economic stimulus, contribute to a higher quality of community recreational facilities and promote national spirit.

The initiative will be delivered nationally through the three regional development agencies, with transitional measures for newly created agencies, with allocation on the basis of project merit and readiness.

As Council is aware the 2004 Community Strategic Plan proposed that in 2011 that the Town look at a second ice pad.

In response to the Federal Government national initiative to provide local economic stimulus, contribute to a higher quality of community recreational facilities and promote national spirit it is recommend that the Town proceed with the Second Ice Pad initiative in 2009.

Recommendations

1. That the Town of Ingersoll resubmit the Clark Side Road project to the Building Canada Plan/to the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund.
2. That Council create a Committee to determine what should be included in a Second Ice Recreation Complex i.e. Community Hall, Indoor Soccer Field; This Committee is to report to Council no later than the June Council meeting. The Committee will also include the Mayor and one member of Council.