

For Immediate Release
2009CD0006-000204
Feb. 19, 2009

Ministry of Community Development
Western Economic Diversification Canada

\$1.7M FOR FORT ST. JOHN SEWAGE TREATMENT ANNOUNCED

FORT ST. JOHN – Canada and B.C. have announced a joint investment of nearly \$1.7 million for upgrades to the Fort St. John South Lagoon wastewater treatment plant, which will result in increased system efficiency and improved effluent quality. It is estimated that upwards of 25 new direct and indirect jobs will be created as a result of this investment.

“This is just one example of our commitment to working with all levels of government to stimulate our local economy. Projects such as this one will create jobs, improve our quality of life and truly benefit the residents of Fort St. John,” said Jay Hill, MP for Prince George-Peace River and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons.

“By working with the community of Fort St. John in partnership with the federal government, the Province of British Columbia is demonstrating its commitment to helping communities renew critical infrastructure,” said Community Development Minister Kevin Krueger. “This demonstrates our commitment to move quickly together on infrastructure projects and assist in providing employment opportunities in B.C.’s construction sector.”

The South Lagoon plant currently processes 77 per cent of the community’s sewage. With upgrades such as the installation of a grit removal chamber, equipment to help liquefy solid waste and pipes to bypass the old lagoon, the plant will improve its operational facilities as well as the quality of effluent it produces.

“This combined investment from all levels of government will make a difference in our communities,” said Senator Richard Neufeld, former long-time MLA for Peace River North.

“The city is delighted to see this kind of support coming from the federal and provincial governments for our infrastructure needs,” said Mayor Bruce Lantz. “The improvements will benefit the residents of Fort St. John and the surrounding area, while ensuring work for area residents in these challenging economic times.”

This project is one of 41 projects across the province that will break ground quickly thanks to a joint federal-provincial investment of \$110 million. Together with local government contributions, the total investment in local infrastructure improvements in British Columbia during this first intake exceeds \$175 million. The governments of Canada and British Columbia have taken steps to get shovels in the ground and to flow money faster for targeted infrastructure projects in British Columbia communities in the 2009 and 2010 construction seasons.

For more information on the Building Canada plan, visit www.buildingcanada.gc.ca or www.bcbuildingcanadafundcommunities.ca/

Media	Carol Larson	Marika Glickman
Contacts:	Constituency Assistant	Ministry of Community Development
	Hon. Jay Hill, P.C., M.P.	250 387-4089
	Leader of the Government in the House of Commons	
	250 787-1194	

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