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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Ministry of Community Development
Western Economic Diversification Canada

\$9.85M UPGRADES ROAD, IMPROVES DRINKING WATER

CENTRAL SAANICH – Residents of Central Saanich will benefit from federal-provincial funding of \$4.6 million to upgrade a portion of East Saanich Road, and 1,500 residents of North Pender Island will have access to better drinking water thanks to a combined \$5.25-million investment, Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Gary Lunn and Saanich North and the Islands MLA Murray Coell announced today.

“These two projects fulfill two key elements of the Building Canada Fund – better roads, and improved water systems,” said Lunn. “The projects will not only provide much-needed infrastructure, they will help stimulate the economy at the local level.”

“Through the Building Canada Fund, smaller communities like these receive the support they need to meet the day-to-day needs of residents,” said Coell. “It takes substantial capital to maintain and develop this type of infrastructure, and it’s great to see all levels of government coming together to make these projects happen.”

In Central Saanich, almost three kilometres of East Saanich Road, from Mount Newton X Road to Island View Road, will be repaved. Bike lanes and sidewalks will be added to both sides of the road from Cultra Avenue to Prosser Road. For the remainder of the project, bike lanes will be added to both sides of the road, and a sidewalk added to one side. The project is expected to create approximately 70 jobs.

“This project will provide many benefits for Central Saanich,” said Central Saanich Mayor Jack Mar. “The reconstruction of this roadway will increase efficiency in the transportation system, while also improving road safety. It will also optimize the use of all modes of traffic and separation of the three, driving, cycling and walking. We look forward to working closely with both the Province of British Columbia and the federal government on this project.”

On North Pender Island, the area of Magic Lake Estates is served by two near-capacity water treatment plants fed by Buck and Magic lakes. The funding will allow the Capital Regional District to decommission the two existing plants and construct one new plant to service the entire area. Improvements will be made at the wastewater treatment plant to accommodate waste from the new drinking water treatment plant. It is estimated this project will create approximately 79 direct and indirect jobs.

“This funding for needed improvements to the Magic Lake water and septic treatment system is welcome news,” said Ken Hancock, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area director. “Support from senior governments is crucial to the regional government’s ability to update treatment of drinking water and to increase waste water treatment capacity for Pender Island’s largest system. The significant environmental, economic and health benefits that will result from these improvements will positively impact almost one thousand Pender Island households.”

These projects are two 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/

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