

For Immediate Release
2009CD0013-000284
March 7, 2009

Ministry of Community Development
Western Economic Diversification Canada

\$1.1M FOR PORT ALBERNI WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

PORT ALBERNI – The federal and provincial governments are investing over \$1.1 million, through the Building Canada Fund, to replace and improve the efficiency and reliability of the China Creek water main.

“This project is just one example of the federal government’s commitment to strengthen the British Columbia economy by reducing red tape, creating jobs and getting shovels in the ground sooner,” said Nanaimo-Alberni MP James Lunney.

“Replacing water mains that are approaching the end of their operational life is a proactive, practical use of infrastructure funding,” said Agriculture and Lands Minister Ron Cantelon, on behalf of Community Development Minister Kevin Krueger. “Installation of new piping will vastly improve the reliability of the water system overall, reduce operational costs, and enhance safety.”

Replacing the China Creek water main will improve 3.2 km of critical water supply infrastructure, increase operator safety and reduce water loss while creating an estimated 17 direct and indirect jobs. The existing water main, which is over 75 years old, is installed above ground and is supported by steel trestles that are at the end of their useful life.

“This is a very welcome announcement,” said Port Alberni Mayor Ken McRae. “This is the second phase of the reconstruction of the city’s main water supply pipeline, and its completion will provide security for our water supply for many years to come.”

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/.

-30-

Media contact: Curtis Hansen
Executive Assistant to James Lunney,
MP
1 866 390-7550

Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Community Development
250 387-4089

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province’s news feeds using RSS, visit the Province’s website at www.gov.bc.ca.