

Vote For Your Future

On May 12th an important choice will be made, one that will have a big impact on the construction industry. Get involved in your future. Make a difference by casting your vote to protect the BC economy and the health of the construction industry.

The current economic downturn can be softened by the planned public infrastructure investment. Without it, many more jobs will be lost. We will lose skilled workers and apprenticeship opportunities that could take years to regain.

The best way to create construction jobs and grow our BC economy is to continue to support the path we have been on for the past eight years. We must:

- reduce taxes and red tape
- maintain a strong investment climate
- boost infrastructure spending

These policies are effective and proven. The past eight years have been good years for the construction industry thanks to a strong econ-

omy. Construction industry jobs in BC increased from 80,125 in 2001 to 147,860 in 2008. Construction industry unemployment in BC dropped from 8.5% in 2002 to 4.4% in 2008. In 2008, total construction activity in British Columbia reached a record high of \$9.6 billion, up from approximately \$6 billion in 2002.

The impact of the global economic downturn is already being felt across BC. Let's not make it worse. The gains established over the previous eight years can quickly be lost if appropriate government action is not taken.

Take an active roll in keeping our province strong. Show up on May 12th and be heard.

Advance polling

Make voting your No. 1 priority before May 12. Advance polls are open 8am – 8pm until May 9. Advance voting locations can be found at:

<http://142.36.238.17/voter/edfinder.htm>

More Infrastructure Spending

In response to the downturn in the economy, the Provincial Government stepped up to the plate by indicating it would support a \$14 billion capital infrastructure program estimated to create up to 88,000 jobs. The what, when and where of this investment is beginning to be made public. The latest installment will go towards BC roads and bridges.

In April, as part of this \$14 billion, the BC Government announced a partnership with the Government of Canada to invest \$290 million in key infrastructure projects. The infrastructure projects include provincial highway reha-

bilitation, public transit service improvements in the Greater Vancouver Regional District, projects in B.C.'s larger cities, as well as forest service roads. The Government of Canada is setting aside up to \$116.6 million from the new Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. The B.C. Government is contributing \$134.7 million. Other funding partners are contributing the remaining \$38.8 million.

The Government anticipates that this partnership will directly create over 1,800 new jobs in addition to stimulating the economy.

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Projects include the following:

Metro Vancouver/ Fraser Valley:

- ✦ North / West Vancouver: Transit accommodation including the replacement of the Old Capilano Bridge (“blue bridge”): \$40 million
- ✦ North Vancouver: Rehabilitation of Iron Workers Memorial Bridge: \$0.9 million
- ✦ Vancouver: Lakewood Dr. and Nanaimo St. bridge repair: \$2 million
- ✦ Richmond: Southbound shoulder bus lane on Highway 99, Sea Island Way to Westminster Highway: \$10.6 million
- ✦ Richmond: Northbound shoulder bus lane on Highway 99, Steveston Highway to Westminster Highway: \$1.7 million
- ✦ Richmond: Grade separation of Nelson Road: \$26.9 million
- ✦ Richmond: Extend Lansdowne Road to link #3 Road and Olympic Oval: \$2 million
- ✦ Surrey: Construct cycling / pedestrian overpass and bicycle paths: \$10.7 million
- ✦ Surrey: Bridgeview Sewer System replacement: \$8.5 million
- ✦ Abbotsford: Upgrade the McCallum Road Interchange: \$25 million
- ✦ Coquitlam: Construct a new common force main: \$1.2 million
- ✦ Hope: Replace two bridge structures on Highway 3 (Cedar Creek 1 and 2): \$11.2 million

Vancouver Island:

- ✦ North Saanich: Construction of McTavish Road Interchange: \$24 million
- ✦ Ucluelet: Resurfacing of Highway 4 in Kennedy Lake area: \$2 million
- ✦ Port Alberni: Resurfacing of Highway 4 west of Riverbend Bridge: \$3.1 million
- ✦ Sooke: Resurfacing of Highway 14 (Metchosin to Sooke): \$6 million

- ✦ Sayward: Resurfacing of Highway 19 near Sayward: \$4.1 million

The North:

- ✦ Prince George: New 4-lane bridge on Highway 97, replacing Stone Creek Bridge: \$28 million
- ✦ Fort Nelson: Base strengthening and sealcoating of Highway 77 from Deasum Creek to the NWT border: \$6 million

Interior:

- ✦ Quesnel: 4-laning of Highway 97 from Cody Road to Australian: \$10 million
- ✦ 100 Mile House: 4-laning of Highway 97 at Stormy Road North: \$3 million
- ✦ Lillooet: Gott Creek Bridge replacement: \$3 million
- ✦ Falkland: Asphalt resurfacing on Highway 97: \$3 million
- ✦ Enderby: Intersection improvements on Highway 97A: \$5 million
- ✦ Kelowna: Construct new truck climbing lane on Highway 33 at Walker Hill: \$5 million
- ✦ Kelowna: Construct a series of multi-use pathways and sidewalks: \$11.5 million
- ✦ Kelowna: Upgrade Gordon Drive and replace Mission Creek Bridge: \$15.6 million

Province-wide:

- ✦ Several communities: Forest service road upgrades: \$20 million

This new round of investment builds on the announcement made March 13, 2009 of \$48 million in joint funding for 161 community infrastructure projects. Clearly, there is still a ways to go to reach the 14 billion dollar mark and the industry can anticipate many more announcements in the near future. This bodes well for keeping our sector of the economy moving and certainly contributes to the “soft landing” predicted by economists for the construction industry.



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The mission of the BCCA is to provide leadership and excellence in the representation of and service to British Columbia's construction industry