

September 25, 2009

Infrastructure Funding to Boost Local Economy and Upgrade Highway 19A, Airport

The federal and provincial government have provided funding for the City of Campbell River to upgrade Hwy 19A and expand the airport.

The combined Federal, Provincial and Municipal funds for infrastructure projects are:

- \$13,140,750 to Campbell River for the South Island Highway Improvement Project – Phase 1
- \$8,331,250 to Campbell River for the Campbell River Airport Runway Extension

“On behalf of the City of Campbell River, I extend our thanks to the Province, Member of Parliament, John Duncan and to the Government of Canada for the investment and belief in our community,” says Mayor Charlie Cornfield.

“The funding announced today will enhance City infrastructure and provide an immediate and long-term boost to our local economy,” he adds.

“The Highway 19A upgrade will see results both above and below the ground. This funding is for the first phase of a project that will extend services beyond the City’s borders as we work with our neighbours in Area D to connect and upgrade utilities and infrastructure,” says the Mayor.

“We can also look forward to improved vehicle, transit, cycling and pedestrian routes along this major corridor. This will mean a safer, more attractive thoroughfare, and increased opportunity for additional residential development along this route,” the Mayor says.

The highway upgrade project starts at Hilchey Road and continues north for almost one kilometre. Work includes the replacement of sewer, water, storm drain, conversion of all overhead utilities (hydro, telephone and cable) to underground, curbs, sidewalks, landscaping and street lighting – similar to the standard constructed through Willow Point. The project includes reconstruction of a major sewage pumping station and will fill in one more piece of the waterfront vision established by the community and will encourage medium-high density residential in-fill along the corridor. Construction is expected to begin early in the new year and be completed in early 2011.

The extension of the airport runway from 5,000 to 6,500 feet is a vital part of the City’s economic diversification strategy. The increased runway length will allow fully loaded 737 service to the Campbell River airport. This will expand the airport’s ability to fill corporate air travel needs and offer a larger inventory of aviation support industries and services – enhancing passenger and freight service for existing and future markets.

Campbell River’s airport currently creates 320 full time positions and generates \$48 million in economic spinoff through aviation related activities. *“Assuming a low-growth scenario, we expect the extended runway will result in 425 full time jobs and \$75 million in economic spinoff over the next 20 years,”* says Mayor Cornfield.

The airport upgrade project is expected to take 12 to 16 months from start of detailed design through construction.

The Mayor recognized Councillor Roy Grant for championing the airport runway expansion.

“I’d like to emphasize that today’s announcements come as a result of years of efforts, keeping priorities set by earlier Councils and focusing on carrying out what’s in the community’s best interest,” the Mayor concludes.

The project is funded under the Province’s three-year, \$14-billion capital infrastructure program that will create up to 88,000 jobs and help build vital public infrastructure in every region of B.C.

Since February about 480 projects worth \$3.4 billion have been announced. These will create an estimated 21,600 jobs in communities across British Columbia. For more information on the Building Canada plan, visit www.buildingcanada.gc.ca or www.bcbuildingcanadafundcommunities.ca. Information on the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund is available at www.creatingjobs.gc.ca.

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