

**Saskatoon:**

Unit 3, 844-51st St. East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 5C7  
Tel (306) 975-4725  
Toll free (888) 844-8886  
Fax (306) 975-4728  
vellacott.mp@shawlink.ca

**Ottawa:**

Suite 610, Justice Bldg.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Tel (613) 992-1899  
Fax (613) 992-3085  
Vellacott.M@parl.gc.ca  
www.mauricevellacott.ca

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

**Maurice Vellacott, MP**  
**Saskatoon-Wanuskewin**

## Federal Gas Tax Funding to Double, Payment to Municipalities Accelerated

**For Immediate Release**

**April 30, 2009**

\$2 Billion annual infrastructure investment will provide jobs, boost local economy and improve quality of life for families..

After a tough winter like the one we've just had, the roads in communities like ours can end up with some fairly deep potholes. Thanks to the Conservative government, communities across Canada will be getting some significant help from the federal government to meet these challenges.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, our government has doubled the amount of money Canadian municipalities receive from the Gas Tax Fund to \$2 billion and accelerated the first payment of up to \$1 billion, making funds available to municipalities almost three months early.

At a time when Canadian municipalities are feeling the effects of the global economic downturn, this increased, accelerated and permanent funding will provide more opportunities to put Canadians to work, and get more money flowing through our local economy.

In the short-term, the increase in funds will mean that shovels will hit the ground sooner on important municipal projects. In the long term, this permanent funding will mean that municipalities can plan for the future with greater confidence.

Two years ago, our government announced the 7-year, \$33 billion Building Canada Plan, which helps build and revitalize infrastructure across Canada. The Gas Tax Fund is the largest component of this plan and provides municipalities with funding for public transit, road building and maintenance, and other infrastructure projects.

Last year, we made the Gas Tax Fund permanent. Now, municipalities have the stable, long-term funding they have asked for to be able to plan for future projects. This means that they can plan for major projects down the road and be secure in knowing that the Gas Tax Fund will be there to help support important community initiatives.

In January, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty introduced Canada's Economic Action Plan, which takes action to create jobs, protect our economy and equip Canada for success in the future. Our plan delivers real results for Canadians with targeted action designed to stimulate Canada's economy.

Over the next two years, an additional \$12 billion is being invested in roads, bridges, hockey arenas, wastewater treatment facilities and other infrastructure projects designed to help kick-start our economy.

The new gas tax funding will be a substantial benefit to municipalities, and will help to deliver jobs and economic stimulus for families and businesses in our community and across Canada.

– 30 –

**For further comment, call (613) 992-1966 or 297-2249**