



FOR RELEASE
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Federal Gas Tax Funding Extended to 2014

Whitehorse, Yukon, April 6, 2009 – Canada's Health Minister, The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, along with the Honourable Archie Lang, Yukon's Minister of Community Services, today announced a landmark agreement that will see millions of federal dollars flow into the territory every year.

"Our government is committed to Canada's Arctic communities and to Northerners," said Minister Aglukkaq. "By extending federal gas tax funding, we're acting to create jobs and secure a brighter future for the Yukon at a time of global economic uncertainty."

The gas tax deal announced today will mean an additional \$60 million dollars for Yukon communities between 2010 and 2014. That's money municipalities can bank on as they plan for their long-term infrastructure needs. The priority is for projects that will have positive and lasting environmental impacts.

"The additional \$60 million in funding is good news for Yukon," said Minister Lang. "It means that all Yukon municipalities, First Nations, and unincorporated communities can continue to utilize the Gas Tax Fund to make key investments in community infrastructure projects that lead to healthy Yukon communities by supporting long-term planning and sustainable infrastructure."

To date, 25 Gas Tax projects have been approved in Yukon, in cities, towns and First Nations.

In addition to extending the Gas Tax payment, the Government of Canada is doubling the annual funding that Yukon receives through the Gas Tax Fund and making the funding available to communities almost three months early. This means the Gas Tax payment has increased in Yukon from \$7.5 million to \$15 million per year.

For more information about federal and territorial Gas Tax initiatives, please visit www.infrastructure.gov.yk.ca, www.buildingcanada.gc.ca, or www.infrastructure.gc.ca.

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Yukon communities can now plan for the long-term thanks to an extension of the federal Gas Tax Fund. The new deal between the federal and territorial governments will mean \$60 million dollars for towns, cities and First Nations from 2010 and 2014. The focus will be infrastructure, and job creation.

Projects like community energy, water and wastewater systems, and public transit are all eligible. Money will also be available to help the environment by making communities more sustainable.

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