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# *News Release*

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## **CANADA AND NOVA SCOTIA SUPPORT HALIFAX CENTRAL LIBRARY, WASTEWATER AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

**Halifax, Nova Scotia, October 19, 2009** – John Baird, Canada’s Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, along with Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, Darrell Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia, Bill Estabrooks, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, and Peter Kelly, Mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), today announced that the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia will consider the Halifax Central Library project in the HRM as a priority for infrastructure funding consideration. Both governments also announced joint funding under the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund to support a package of wastewater and road improvements throughout the province.

“Our Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, recognizes that libraries are important public spaces and learning centres,” said Minister Baird. “We are proud of these investments, which are on top of the \$14 million we committed for Halifax and Cape Breton just last month.”

“As the regional minister for Nova Scotia, I am proud to be a part of these infrastructure investments that generate economic and employment opportunities across the province,” said Minister MacKay. “These initiatives are important to Nova Scotians, creating various benefits that they can enjoy for years to come.”

“I am pleased that this government continues to fulfill the commitments we made to Nova Scotians to maximize federal infrastructure spending,” said Mr. Dexter. “Today’s announcement is providing much needed infrastructure improvements, employing Nova Scotians, creating economic growth, and making life better for people from across this Province.”

“Building infrastructure is critical to the economy of Nova Scotia,” said Mr. Estabrooks. “These projects translate into more jobs, steady employment and better infrastructure to support local business and industries.”

“Today’s investment in culture and learning will leave a legacy to everyone in the community - children, families, seniors and lifelong learners,” said Mayor Kelly. “Just as this library in which we stand reflected its time and its values, the new Central Library

will blend the best of traditional library service with new and innovative spaces making it a vital centre for learning and culture in the heart of the community.”

The Halifax Central Library, intended to replace the current Spring Garden Road Memorial Library, will serve as a resource centre for HRM residents, help drive the economic revitalization of the downtown area, and be a new attraction for visiting tourists. The 109,000-square-foot facility will include a larger book collection, additional meeting and study rooms, a 250-seat auditorium, and technology areas for computers.

Canada is setting aside up to one-third of total eligible costs, to a maximum federal contribution of \$18.3 million. Nova Scotia will provide \$13 million and the HRM will contribute \$23.7 million toward the project, which has a total estimated cost of \$55 million.

Federal funding for this project would come from the Major Infrastructure Component of the Building Canada Fund. Funding is conditional on the project meeting all of the requirements under the Building Canada Fund and the signing of a contribution agreement with the province.

The wastewater system upgrades will improve the quality of wastewater treatment, while the road improvements will upgrade road conditions and increase road safety for drivers. The Province will include these on its annual capital plan for the \$25 million per year provided by the Government of Canada for core infrastructure priorities in Nova Scotia. The total estimated cost of these improvements is \$37.1 million.

Beyond this funding announcement, the Government of Canada is taking important steps to support economic growth. Canada’s Economic Action Plan is accelerating and expanding the existing federal investment of \$33 billion in infrastructure across Canada with almost \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over the next two years. Canada and Nova Scotia are working together to create jobs and boost the economy, while making significant investments that help communities improve their infrastructure. Both governments have agreed to work together to ensure that these funds are delivered quickly and efficiently so that construction can begin as soon as possible.

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For more information, please visit [www.creatingjobs.gc.ca](http://www.creatingjobs.gc.ca).

To learn more about Canada’s Economic Action Plan, visit [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).

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