

## Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

### 2011-2012 Budget Highlights

- The 2011-2012 budget for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal is \$114.5 million.
- The 2011-2012 Capital Budget sets aside approximately \$37 million for road and bridge infrastructure.
- The 2011-2012 budget includes \$27 million dollars for cost shared infrastructure projects.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal manages highway capital improvements, highway maintenance, highway safety programming and legislation, building construction management and building maintenance, cost shared infrastructure program management, land and asset management and environmental management and mitigation.

### Major accomplishments - 2007-11

The past three years were among the busiest in the history of the department. Both the provincial government, through the provincial Capital Budget, and the federal government, through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, have invested heavily in road and bridge infrastructure over the past three years as a way to help stimulate the economy in difficult times. This has resulted in two of the biggest single year investments ever in the province's road network.

Since May 2007 the department has overseen a \$202 million investment in the province's road and bridge network. This has resulted in major repairs or replacements on 34 bridges at a cost of \$45.2 million and the repaving or rebuilding of over 700 kilometres of provincial roadway at a cost of \$156.8 million. The projects have improved the safety and efficiency of the Island's road network.

These investments have created over 2,000 jobs since 2007.

The 2011-2012 Capital Budget sets aside approximately \$37 million for road and bridge infrastructure.

Since 2007 the province, along with the federal government and local municipalities has invested \$173-million in local infrastructure through various cost-shared infrastructure programs. This included investment in local infrastructure such as sewer and water, municipal building renovations, sport and cultural venues, community centre renovations, energy efficiency and clean energy development. The provincial share of this investment totaled \$64 million. This investment has resulted in major improvements to local infrastructure such as sewer and water and sidewalks. It helped improve public transit facilities and vehicles at a cost of \$5.8 million.

These investments also contribute to the health of residents by improving venues for physical activity. Projects were carried out at the Evangeline Recreation Centre; the Stratford regional indoor soccer facility; the Cornwall Sports Fields; the Summerside Canada Games venue; and the University of Prince Edward Island Canada Games track and field facility.

These and other investments address mobility issues by making municipal buildings more accessible.

The infrastructure program has allowed the provincial government to partner in the development of the new Prince Edward Island Convention Centre.

Another infrastructure initiative helped provide clean energy in the form of wind power to six Island communities including a \$9 million dollar wind farm in Summerside, and wind turbine installations in Kinkora, Kensington, Crapaud, Alberton and Murray River.

Increased capital spending in other departments like health, education and community services has resulted in a higher number of projects being managed by the department, including new construction and renovations on schools, hospitals, health clinics and seniors facilities.

The safety of Island residents is of paramount importance to the department. Through the Highway Safety Division, the department has overseen the implementation of many new pieces of legislation over the past four years. These included

- a ban on the use of hand held wireless communication devices while driving
- mandatory ignition interlock for repeat offender impaired drivers
- increased penalties for impaired drivers
- increased fines for all highway traffic act offenses

The Highway Safety Division has led educational campaigns for the cell phone ban, winter tires, child restraints, cyclists (Share the Road), proper roundabout use, and campaign 911 which aims to encourage drivers to call 9-1-1 if they suspect someone is driving impaired.