CITY OF
VICTORIA

Victoria Applies for Federal Infrastructure Stimulus Funds

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VICTORIA, BC — With the application deadline for infrastructure funding today, Victoria City Council has approved two projects for potential funding. The *Canada-British Columbia Building Canada Program Infrastructure Stimulus Funds* allows a municipality to submit two applications for projects to be completed within two years.

"We have our first opportunity for significant infrastructure stimulus funding in years and we are allowed to apply for two much-needed projects," noted Mayor Dean Fortin. "We must capitalize on the opportunity to improve our community services and keep local people working."

Details on the two applications:

Replacement of Johnson Street Bridge

- An extensive review of the electrical, mechanical, structural and seismic conditions of the 85 year old, bascule type bridge conducted over the past eight months confirmed the urgent need to invest. Over 30,000 vehicles travel over the bridge each day as well as thousands of pedestrian and cycling commuters. Options for improving approaches to the bridge and increasing non-vehicular traffic are being considered.

New multi-purpose, recreation facility to replace Crystal Pool & Fitness Centre

- Costing over $1.2 million a year to operate annually and requiring over $10 million in investment to remain open another 10 years while making no improvements, the Crystal Pool & Fitness Centre could be replaced with a 90,000 square foot multi-purpose, inter-generational recreation facility.

Fortin noted, "the Johnson Street Bridge is our top priority. It's a vital transportation corridor to downtown. It is our number one priority but with a $600 million infrastructure deficit, it's not our only priority," added Fortin. "Despite our efforts to utilize and maximize the Crystal Pool & Fitness Centre, it needs millions in reinvestment."

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