



Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project Gets \$6 Million Boost from Federal Gas Tax Fund

Date: Friday, February 23, 2018

For Immediate Release

The City of Victoria has received conditional approval of \$6 million in Federal Gas Tax Funding to support the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project.

The City of Victoria's Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre is being replaced with a new all ages and abilities recreation and wellness facility. This critical public amenity will provide increased capacity for citizens of Victoria and the region to participate in healthy activities. In accordance with Victoria's commitment to climate action, the new centre will also use energy efficient technology to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from City facilities by more than 33 per cent. This investment in public recreation will have long-term positive impacts on the health and wellness of the community.

The approval from the Federal Gas Tax Fund will provide up to \$6 million towards the total project cost of \$69.4 million. This contribution is conditional on the balance of the remaining funding being acquired within one year. In the event this condition is not met, the funding will be rescinded. The City of Victoria has already committed \$10 million to the project and is actively seeking further funding through federal-provincial infrastructure programs, as well as other partners.

Each year, the Government of Canada provides over \$278 million in funding for local government infrastructure across British Columbia through the Federal Gas Tax Fund. The Union of BC Municipalities administers the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

Quotes

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

"The Government of Canada is proud to support important projects like the replacement of the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre. Recreational infrastructure brings people together, encourages active living, and makes communities more dynamic and inclusive places to live."

Minister Carole James, MLA Victoria-Beacon Hill

"Our government is committed to working with local governments across the province to make life better for all British Columbians. The City of Victoria's Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project will revitalize a critical community resource and support wellness for young people, seniors and families."

Director Wendy Booth, President, Union of BC Municipalities

"Communities around BC are stretched by the replacement costs of aging infrastructure. The federal Gas Tax Fund is helping communities like Victoria to renew core facilities through the transfer of federal revenues. I am very appreciative of the federal government's continuing commitment to the improvement of local infrastructure in BC."

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps

“I’m grateful to the UBCM and the federal and provincial governments for their confidence in our project with this investment. It’s only by all levels of government working together that we can create quality of life and wellbeing for our residents, universal accessibility, affordability and reduced greenhouse gas emissions that all governments are looking to deliver.”

Links

To learn more about the federal Gas Tax Fund visit: <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/gtf-fte-eng.html>

To learn more about the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project visit:
www.victoria.ca/poolfuture

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