
News Release

FEDERAL GAS TAX FUNDING EXTENDED TO 2014

Iqaluit, Nunavut, April 9, 2009 – The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, along with the Honourable Eva Aariak, Premier of Nunavut, announced today that communities across Nunavut can now better plan for their long-term infrastructure needs by drawing on an additional \$60 million from the federal Gas Tax Fund between 2010 and 2014.

“This new gas tax money will enable the communities of Nunavut to fund key infrastructure,” said Minister Aglukkaq. “Canada’s economic growth is our Government’s main focus. Through our infrastructure commitments, the Government of Canada is supporting job creation and a stronger Northern economy, while giving communities the tools to be more prosperous.”

In Nunavut, the Gas Tax Fund supports environmentally sustainable community infrastructure, such as water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure. Funding is also available for communities to enhance their capacity to achieve and maintain long-term sustainability. From 2005 to 2014, Nunavut communities will receive \$97.5 million through the Gas Tax Fund. The Gas Tax Fund will become permanent in 2014.

“All Nunavummiut deserve to have their basic needs met,” said Premier Aariak. “Today’s announcement means safe water, reliable waste infrastructure, jobs in our communities and stewardship of our environment.”

In addition to extending the Gas Tax payment for 4 years, the Government of Canada is doubling the annual funding that Nunavut receives through the Gas Tax Fund and is making the funding available to municipalities, in early April, almost three months early. This means the Gas Tax payment has increased in Nunavut from \$7.5 million to \$15 million per year.

“The Gas Tax funding has assisted the Government of Nunavut in completing critically needed improvements to community water and sewage infrastructure across the territory,” commented the Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Minister of Community and Government Services. “Reliable ongoing funding based on Nunavut’s needs and not our population is something we have requested from the Government of Canada and is now receiving through the Gas Tax funding arrangements.”

The Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan is accelerating and expanding the existing federal investment of \$33 billion in infrastructure, which includes the Gas Tax Fund, with almost \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over two years. The Government of Nunavut is working closely with the federal government to ensure that these infrastructure funds are being spent well on priorities in these communities.

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

For further information contact:

Josée Bellemare
Press Secretary
The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of Health
613-957-0200

Shawn Maley
Assistant Deputy Minister
Community and Government Services
Government of Nunavut
867-645-8101

Infrastructure Canada
613-948-1148