

The Government of Canada Invests \$25 Million to Increase Recreational Trails and Sites Across the Country

NORTH VANCOUVER, March 6, 2009 - The Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of State (Sport), today announced that the Government of Canada will invest \$25 million in Canada's trail infrastructure as part of the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Funding will be used by the National Trails Coalition to build and renew multi-purpose trails for walking, running, cross country skiing, biking, ATVs, and snowmobiles. This will create jobs and leaving a lasting legacy of pristine trails that will benefit Canadians for years to come.

"Our Government sees this investment as a win for our national trails system, a win for everyone that uses healthy living space, and a win for job creation and investment in communities," said Minister of State Lunn. "By providing safe and easy access to healthy living sites, like biking, walking, and snowmobiling trails, our Government is working to ensure that all Canadians benefit from their natural surroundings and have the opportunity to engage in an active and healthy lifestyle."

Today's announcement will provide funding to projects that are ready to break ground in the 2009-2010 construction seasons. These projects will invest money in local and rural regions, create jobs, and increase opportunities for tourism, at a time when the need for economic stimulus is greatest.

The Government's contribution will be matched by the National Trails Coalition, a joint venture made up of the following non-profit organizations: Canadian Trails Foundation, Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, and the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council.

"Together, the National Trails Coalition represents thousands of Canadians who enjoy the outdoors. Thanks to the support of our federal government, all Canadians will be able to enjoy safe, well-maintained trails right across the country," said Terry Norman, Spokesperson for the National Trails Coalition.

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