



Backgrounder

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA-NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION PARTNERSHIP TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

Recreational trails across our country are a key part of our outdoor heritage. They enrich the health and enjoyment of countless families, tourists and sports enthusiasts across Canada.

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada is investing \$25 million to improve 514 recreational trails across Canada. This investment in Canada's outdoor heritage will help to quickly create jobs, support into local economies, and attract tourists. The Government's \$25-million contribution will be matched by the National Trails Coalition (NTC) and its partners. Cost-matching will occur on a project-by-project basis.

To provide the most rapid economic benefit possible during this challenging economic time, funding will go to shovel-ready projects that are set to break ground and be completed in 2009-2010.

The program is being administered by the NTC. The funds will be used to build, upgrade and renew trails recreational trails for a number of non-motorized and motorized uses, including hiking, walking, cycling, equestrian, cross-country skiing, ATVs, off-road motorcycles and snowmobiles. The NTC is responsible for reviewing and approving applications.

The NTC was formed in 2007 to bring trail-based organizations together in a collaborative manner to build, maintain and promote trail use across Canada. The NTC's member organizations are longstanding groups with considerable expertise in trail-building and funding administration.

The NTC is a non-profit organization whose member organizations provide stewardship of much of Canada's trail infrastructure. The NTC is composed of three not-for-profit organizations: the Canadian Trails Federation, the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors' Council and the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations. Membership in these national organizations is drawn from subsidiary groups in each province or from the private sector through the contributions of manufacturers and distributors of trail-related vehicles, products and services. Virtually all forms of trail-based activity are represented under the Trails Coalition banner.

Additional information can be found on the National Trails Coalition website: www.ntc-canada.ca or www.cns-canada.ca.