



Blake Richards, M.P.
Wild Rose

News release

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WILD ROSE M.P. DELIVERS EXPANDED GAS-TAX CHEQUE TO AIRDRIE

AIRDRIE – The City of Airdrie will receive nearly twice as much federal gas-tax transfer funds this year and the money will flow three months earlier than usual, Wild Rose Member of Parliament Blake Richards announced on Wednesday.

“I am pleased to see twice the amount of cash rolling out to our city at record speed this year,” Richards said of the **\$1,932,202** that Airdrie will receive through the Gas Tax Fund (GTF) in 2009-'10.

That amount is roughly double the \$966,737 that the municipality received through the transfer in 2008-'09.

The Conservative M.P. announced the local funding at a meeting with Airdrie municipal council members on Wednesday.

Airdrie's \$1.932-million allotment is part of \$8,379,810 worth of GTF transfers to 16 Wild Rose municipalities in 2009-'10 – or about double the amount that all local communities received in gas-tax transfers last year.

"As one of the fastest-growing communities in Canada, Airdrie is constantly evolving, requiring the steady enhancement of our infrastructure. The additional funding from the program will help us address some of our infrastructure projects," Airdrie Mayor Linda Bruce said.

"The funds will directly benefit residents with the upgrading of First Avenue, as part of the downtown revitalization plan," she said.

The Conservative government has doubled the amount of GTF grants that all Canadian municipalities will receive this year to \$2 billion. And first-installment payments that normally were not available until July were this year available as of April 1.

"The Conservative government is giving some significant help to meet infrastructure challenges through something as simple as returning gas-tax revenues to the communities in which they were generated," Richards said.

Across Alberta, total GTF transfers will increase from \$95.381 million last year to \$190.7 million in 2009. The transfer will rise to \$199.5 million in each of the next five years.

That's compared to \$57 million that Alberta received under the former Liberal government in 2005.

Last year, the federal government made the GTF permanent.

For more information, please contact Blake Richards, M.P., at (403) 948-5103

The accelerated gas-tax funding is just one part of the Conservative government's overall plan to provide fiscal stimulus for Canada's economy and to create jobs through modern public infrastructure works.

"Getting the gas-tax funds to municipalities earlier in the fiscal year means that shovel-ready capital projects can begin in time for the spring 2009 construction season," Richards said.

Receiving the money earlier in the year may also lessen the need for some municipalities to borrow funds in order to complete certain capital projects, Richards notes.

The Gas Tax Fund provides municipalities with stable funding for their long-term infrastructure priorities.

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