



## News Release

For Immediate Release

### District of Vanderhoof receives federal Gas Tax Fund contribution for Aquatic Centre

July 5, 2016 Vanderhoof, British Columbia

Federal, provincial and local Government officials joined together today to announce the approval of a community project that will improve the recreational opportunities for the citizens of Vanderhoof and surrounding communities for many years to come.

The Vanderhoof Aquatic Centre has been a goal for the District of Vanderhoof for over 25 years. It is a much-needed facility for the community, for both recreation and rehabilitation.

The Government of Canada is contributing \$6 million to this project through the federal Gas Tax Fund. The remaining portion of funding for this \$12 million project is being provided through previously allocated Gas Tax funds of \$1.4 million, numerous substantial supporters, fundraising and the District of Vanderhoof.

This project is one of seven announced today that are being funded through the Strategic Priorities Fund under the federal Gas Tax Fund for 2016.

Each year, the Government of Canada provides close to \$266 million in indexed funding for local government infrastructure projects across British Columbia through the federal Gas Tax Fund. The funding can be spent on any eligible project the community prioritizes across a broad range of eligible project categories, or it can be pooled with other communities for regional projects, banked for later priorities or used to pay for financed projects.

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

"Through the federal Gas Tax Fund, the Government of Canada is allowing communities in British Columbia, and across Canada, to prioritize their infrastructure investments and decide how best to spend federal dollars. Whether it's about protecting local waters, modernizing community centres or just turning on the tap to drink clean fresh water, these seven community projects will contribute to building the strong, inclusive and sustainable communities Canadians desire to live in."

*The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi,  
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities*

"The Province of British Columbia is thrilled to support construction of a new aquatic centre that will ensure residents have access to recreational infrastructure for the benefit of everyone in the community. We are pleased to work with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Federal Government to provide the District of Vanderhoof with a reliable source of funding for investments like this through the Gas Tax Agreement."

*John Rustad,  
MLA for Nechako Lakes*

"It is exciting to see funding in place so that Vanderhoof can move forward on the construction of its Aquatic Centre. The support provided by the Government of Canada has been critical for this project. I am very appreciative of the ongoing investments in British Columbia's communities through the federal Gas Tax Fund."

*Al Richmond,  
President, Union of BC Municipalities*

“This grant will allow us to complete a vision we have had for well over 25 years. The Aquatic Centre will provide the Nechako Valley the opportunity to attract and retain residents of all ages to our region. We will have a facility that will give our area a great environment to learn to swim.”

*Gerry Thiessen,  
Mayor, District of Vanderhoof*

Please contact the District of Vanderhoof at 250-567-4711 for more information.

## **Associated Links**

Investing in Canada, the Government of Canada’s new \$120 billion infrastructure plan:  
<http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/index-eng.html>.

Federal infrastructure investments in British Columbia: <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/map-carte/bc-eng.html>.

Federal Gas Tax Fund: <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/gtf-fte-eng.html>.

Projects announced today under the Strategic Priorities Fund in British Columbia: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1094209>.

Local government link: [www.vanderhoof.ca](http://www.vanderhoof.ca).

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