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# *News Release*

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For immediate release  
July 5, 2012

**HARPER GOVERNMENT TAKES ACTION TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY  
FACILITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY**  
**Minister Clement Launches the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund in  
Northern Ontario**

Sudbury, Ontario – The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister for FedNor, today announced the launch of the new Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund in Northern Ontario. Community and recreational facilities are now eligible for repairs and upgrades through the Fund.

“The Harper Government understands that investing in community infrastructure creates jobs and helps build a strong and sustainable economic foundation for all Canadians,” said Minister Clement. “With today’s announcement, FedNor, in partnership with FedDev Ontario, will work to maximize the benefits of the Program for Northern Ontario communities and residents.”

“Our government is committed to creating jobs, growth and long-term prosperity in our communities,” said the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). “The Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund will boost economic activity in communities and help support job creation in Ontario. By improving the quality of our community facilities, we are also contributing to building prosperous communities for Canadian families for years to come.”

To show that the Harper Government is committed to the development of community infrastructure across the country, representatives responsible for the other regional development agencies have made similar announcements in their respective regions.

FedDev Ontario is delivering the Fund in Ontario with an allocation of \$49.6 million over two years. FedDev Ontario will be responsible for administering the program, drawing on its expertise in the delivery of infrastructure programs. FedNor will provide support to FedDev Ontario through its knowledge of the region by promoting and launching the Fund in Northern Ontario.

The Fund will support, on a cost-shared basis, repairs and improvements to existing community infrastructure that is accessible for use by the public. Local, regional and First Nation governments, as well as not-for-profit organizations with projects that can be completed before March 31, 2014 are invited to apply for funding.

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Eligible recipients may receive contributions of up to \$1 million and must leverage a minimum of 50 percent of funding from other sources. In Ontario, priority may be given to projects that require a federal contribution of just 33.3 percent of total project costs.

Applications for projects in Ontario must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. EDT on August 24, 2012. For detailed program guidelines and information on how to apply, please refer to [fednor.gc.ca](http://fednor.gc.ca).

This national program provides \$150 million over two years to be delivered by regional development agencies across the country. For more information, please refer to the backgrounder.

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This news release is available online at: [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).

# Backgrounder

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND

The Harper Government has committed to supporting communities and creating jobs through repairs and improvements to existing community facilities over the next two years through the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF). Expansions such as adding ramps to improve accessibility to a facility, adding a roof to an outdoor rink or extending a trail or bike path are eligible. The construction of new infrastructure and repairs to facilities that are primarily for commercial or for-profit activities are ineligible. Facilities must be accessible for use by the public and not limited to a private membership. All projects are required to be completed by March 31, 2014.

The Fund is being delivered by the regional development agencies across Canada and will support projects on a cost-shared basis. Funding recipients may receive up to 50 percent of total eligible costs. The Harper Government may provide up to \$1 million per project. Municipal, regional and First Nation governments, as well as not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

The Fund has been allocated as follows:

Regional Development Agency	Region	Fiscal year 2012-13	Fiscal year 2013-14	Total
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island	\$8,300,000	\$8,300,000	\$16,600,000
Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec	Quebec	\$15,600,000	\$15,600,000	\$31,200,000
Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario/Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario	Ontario	\$24,800,000	\$24,800,000	\$49,600,000
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency	Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$6,400,000
Western Economic Diversification Canada	British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba	\$23,100,000	\$23,100,000	\$46,200,000

More information on the delivery of the Fund in each region is available by contacting each regional development agency. In Northern Ontario, please visit [fednor.gc.ca](http://fednor.gc.ca), email [infrastructure@feddevontario.gc.ca](mailto:infrastructure@feddevontario.gc.ca) or call 1-866-593-5505.