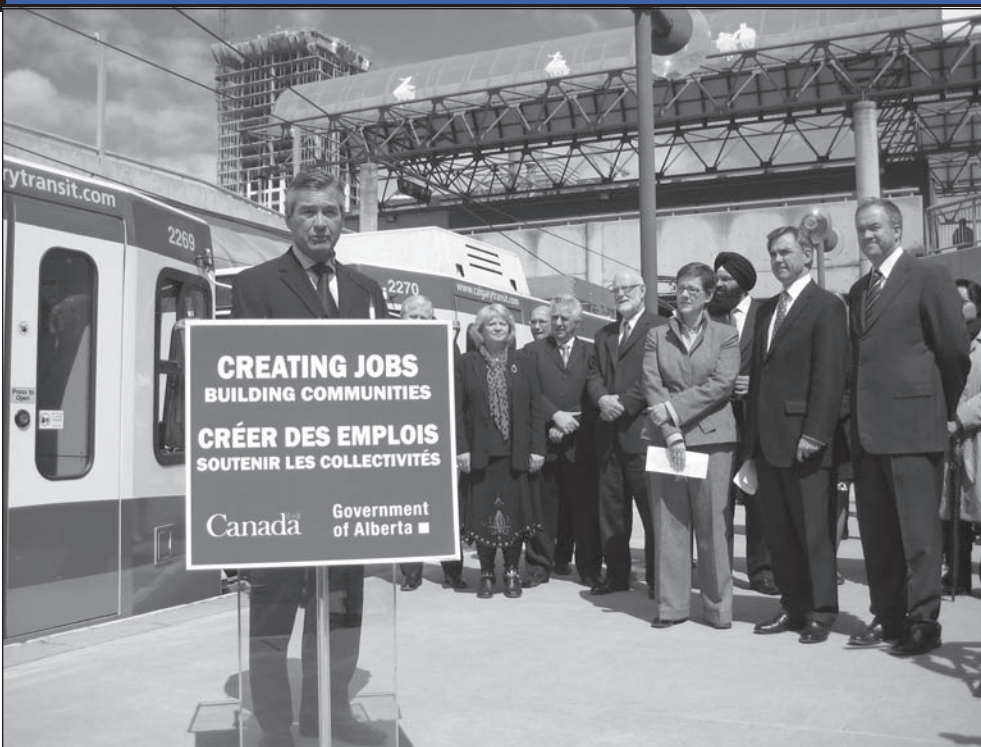




# CALGARY CENTRE NEWS

June 2009

## Investing in Calgary: Canada's Economic Action Plan at Work



On January 27th, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty introduced Budget 2009 - Canada's Economic Action Plan, a bold agenda to protect Canadians from the immediate economic threat while helping to establish the conditions needed to secure long term growth and prosperity.

Last month the Government of Canada announced two significant investments in Calgary's infrastructure that will be funded as a direct result of the Economic Action Plan. These investments provide both an immediate economic boost and long-term sustainability, for a greener, more efficient infrastructure system in Calgary.

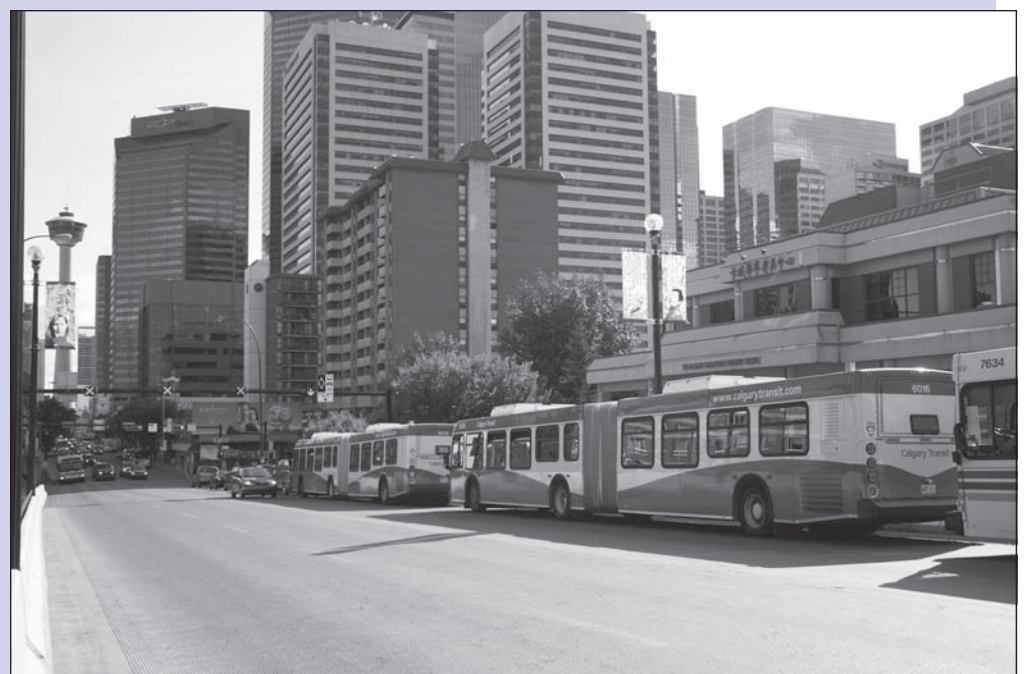
### \$90 million for Calgary transit

The Government of Canada is setting aside up to \$90 million to support a number of transit improvements

identified as priorities in the City of Calgary. These include:

- Electronic Fare Collection
- Transit Signal Priority Projects
- Upgrade Light Rail Transit Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Security System
- Calgary Transit Advanced Passenger Information System
- Light Rail Transit Traction Power Upgrades
- Southeast Bus Rapid Transit "Park n Ride" Lots
- 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rehabilitation - Four Car Stations and Trackwork
- Four-Car Light Rail Transit Station Platforms
- West Light Rail Transit 11<sup>th</sup> Street Station

Construction of all of these improvements, except for the West Light Rail Transit 11<sup>th</sup> Street Station, should begin as early as this spring 2009. The West Light Rail Station should be started in 2010 and finished by the end of 2012.



### How to reach us:

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(613) 995-1561 [Richardson.l@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Richardson.l@parl.gc.ca)

This investment in transit will provide significant benefits, such as:

- contributing to improving overall mobility; mitigating congestion;
- ensuring that the region can accommodate future growth;
- generating direct and indirect employment opportunities; and,
- helping to mitigate greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions.

# Around Calgary

Lee Richardson recently announced that the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta will jointly contribute \$18 million towards the expansion of Heritage Park .

Federal financial support will allow Heritage Park to complete its redevelopment which will include a pedestrian promenade connecting the new expansion into the existing village; constructing new streetcar terminals; developing exhibit and classroom space; restoring the interior of the Canmore Opera House; and converting the Burns Barn into the Heritage Park Education Centre.



Lee Richardson speaks at the grand opening of the new Gasoline Alley Transportation Museum at Heritage Park.

Calgary Homeless Foundation President & CEO Tim Richter, Homeless Foundation Board member Lee Richardson and Andrew Stephens of event sponsor Petro Canada volunteer at Project Homeless Connect.



Project Homeless Connect offers immediate support and services to Calgarians who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless—all under one roof. Organized by the Calgary Homeless Foundation, Project Homeless Connect brought us one step closer to achieving Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

## Continued from page 1: Investing in Calgary

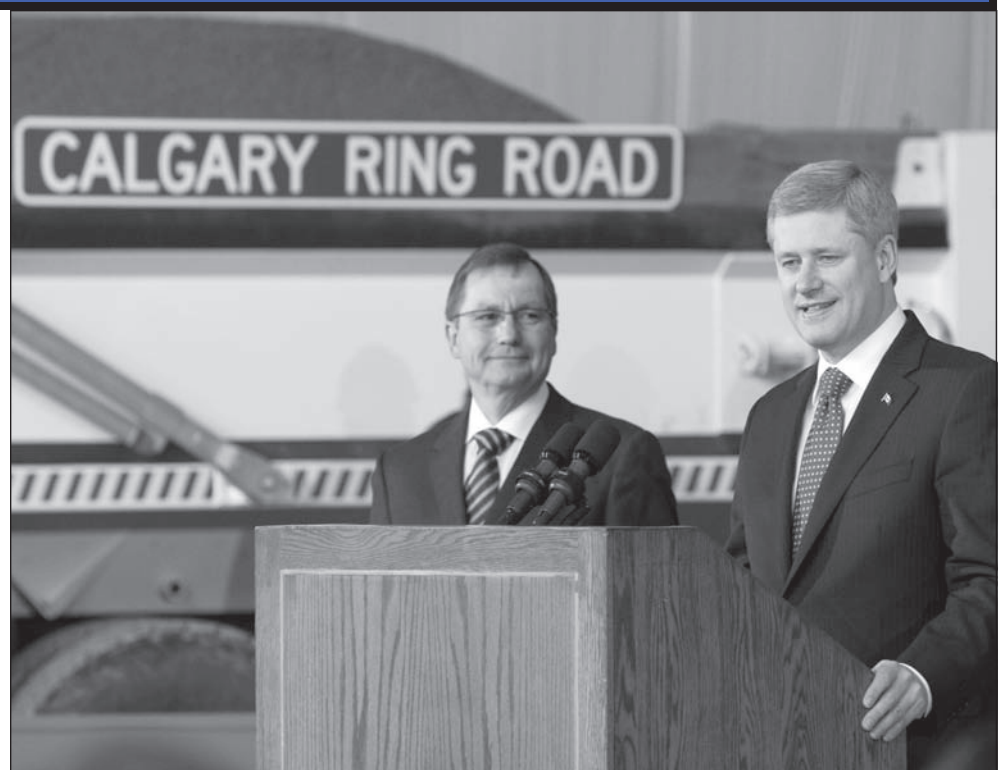
### \$100 million for the Calgary Ring Road

The Calgary Ring Road is a major commuter and transport thoroughfare designed to reduce congestion and improve road safety. Families, workers and businesses in Calgary will benefit from reduced traffic congestion and improved road safety thanks to an Economic Action Plan investment in Calgary Ring Road.

Extending Calgary Ring Road creates jobs, while reducing strain on our city's road and transit system for years to come.

Investment in public infrastructure like Calgary's Ring Road and C-Train system stimulates our economy, relieves traffic congestion and will help our community prosper now and in the future. It also creates a lasting legacy that will improve our city for many years to come.

These two projects are concrete examples of federal leadership and Canada's Economic Action Plan at work.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Premier Ed Stelmach announcing new funding for the Calgary Ring Road. Extending the Calgary Ring Road creates jobs, while reducing strain on our city's road and transit system for years to come.

## Helping Canadians - Freezing Park Fees



Calgary Centre MP Lee Richardson is joined by Calgary-Nose Hill MP and Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism) Diane Ablonczy to announce that the Government of Canada is freezing entry and camping fees for two years at our National Parks.

Parks Canada is Canada's largest provider of natural and cultural tourism products and its iconic destinations form the cornerstones of the Canadian tourism industry.

To help ensure Canadians can continue to access our parks during the global economic downturn, the Government of Canada recently announced that it will forego any possible price hikes for Parks Canada's key services for two years.

The price freeze will help Canada's tourism industry and local economies across Canada.

The price freeze, which took effect immediately, affects all Parks Canada entry fees, camping at national parks, lockage and mooring at historic canals and several other national fees for basic services.

The price freeze will last at least until April 1, 2011 for independent visitors and until April 1, 2012 for commercial groups.

What do you think?

# Working for You



Carlene Donnelly, Executive Director, Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS). Project Manager Lisa Caton and Vice Chair Tracey Theal of the Momentum Community Economic Development Society, Hon. Helena Guergis Minister of State (Status of Women), Calgary Centre M.P. Lee Richardson and Calgary Northeast M.P. Devinder Shory announcing funding for Calgary non-profit organizations.

Lee Richardson joins Bill Batycky, Program Manager of the SEEDS Foundation, at the Earth Day/SEEDS "Take the Plunge" Water Conservation Challenge Celebration in Calgary. Calgary based SEEDS offers environmental minded educational programs that complement school curriculums.



Lee Richardson announces significant federal funding for a youth skills development program. He was joined at the announcement by Lorenzo Donadeo, President and CEO of Vermilion Energy Trust, Jonelle Edwards, past participant of the YWCA Skills Training Centre and Jill Wyatt, Chief Executive Officer of YWCA Calgary.

Lee recently met with Calgary Fire Chief Bruce Burrell in his Parliament Hill office. Among other topics, the two discussed the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs four public safety priorities:

- develop and fund a true national emergency preparedness/response capability;
- ensure that the volunteer fire service is able to recruit and retain sufficient personnel;
- require that automatic sprinkler systems be installed in all residential and non residential structures; and
- improve federal funding for the Fire Services.



Mr. Burrell, President of the Association of Fire Chiefs, also met with Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, the first such meeting in 140 years.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**Do you support the federal government's infrastructure spending on Calgary's C-Train and Ring Road?**

Yes    No    Undecided

**Do you support the decision to freeze entry fees at National Parks?**

Yes    No    Undecided

**Are Lee Richardson and the Conservative Government on the right track?**

Yes    No    Undecided

**Your Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# Be prepared: Apply for your passport early

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) is an **American law** that requires all travellers, including U.S. and Canadian citizens, to present a valid passport or other approved secure document when entering the United States from within the western hemisphere. The U.S. WHTI is being implemented in stages by mode of transportation.

As of **June 1, 2009**, Canadian citizens are required to present a valid passport, or a NEXUS or Free and Secure Trade (FAST) card, or an enhanced driver's licence/enhanced identification card when seeking to enter the United States at its **land or water** crossings. Canadian citizens 15 years of age or under will only require proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or a Canadian citizenship card. Canadian citizens 18 years of age or under who are travelling with a school or other organized group, under adult supervision with parental/guardian consent may also present proof of Canadian citizenship alone.

Due to this new American legal requirement, Passport Canada is experiencing a sharp volume increase in passport applications. To avoid congestion, delays and waiting time at its offices, Passport Canada strongly recommends that Canadians send their applications by mail or take their applications to a Service Canada or Canada Post receiving agent.

A complete checklist identifying the steps in the passport application process, as well as the location of Passport Canada offices and Canada Post / Service Canada receiving agents, is available at [www.passportcanada.gc.ca](http://www.passportcanada.gc.ca) or by calling toll-free 1-800-567-6868.

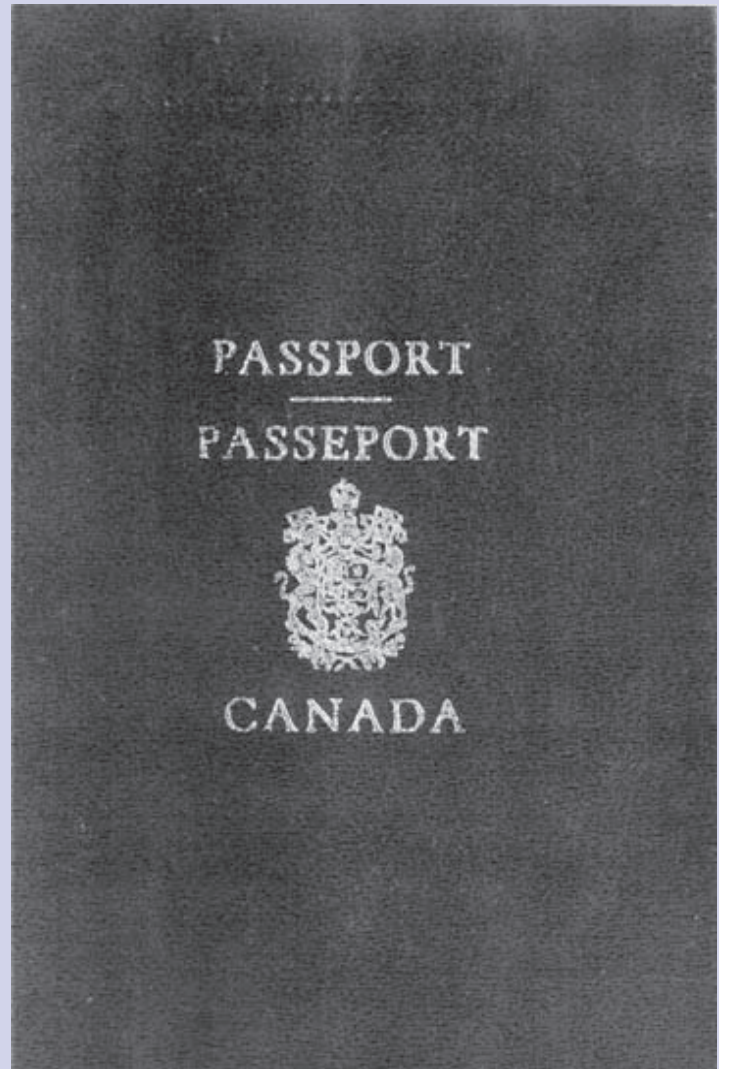
Calgary has two Passport Canada offices, one downtown at the Harry Hays Building, Suite 254, 220-4th Avenue SE

and one at 14331 Macleod Trail SW.

While Passport Canada has implemented several measures to reduce waiting times, including increasing staff levels, turnaround times are longer than usual. To help you receive your passport as quickly as possible, Canadians are encouraged to carefully review their applications to avoid mistakes on the application form.

While it is best to apply in person at Passport Canada service locations, passport applications can be obtained at Canada Post outlets, your travel agency, at my office, or online at [www.pptc.gc.ca](http://www.pptc.gc.ca).

For more information about U.S. entry requirements for Canadian citizens and how to apply for a WHTI-compliant document, visit Canadian Border Services at: [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/whti-ivho/menu-eng.html](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/whti-ivho/menu-eng.html)



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