

Safe and Sustainable Communities

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador works every day to build safe and sustainable communities. By investing in programs and services that are responsive, innovative, and efficient, our government is strengthening municipal infrastructure, environmental protection, justice and public safety supports, and residential services.

Communities

To promote communities that support a stronger, more diversified province with a high standard of living, Budget 2017 commitments include:

- \$100 million for municipal infrastructure over the next three years through Multi-Year Capital Works (\$70 million) and Municipal Capital Works (\$30 million) programs.
- \$22 million for Municipal Operating Grants, which will remain at current levels.
- \$23.3 million to maintain the HST rebate program for municipalities.
- \$7.1 million for provincial gas tax revenue sharing, which is increasing to one cent per litre this year.
- \$6.5 million in provincial funding to assist in repairs and response to the 2016 Thanksgiving Rainstorm Event.
- \$2 million for the Special Assistance Grant Program to assist communities with emergency and small capital needs.
- Cost share ratios to prioritize municipal projects that support improved drinking water, wastewater, and disaster mitigation initiatives.
- \$1.88 million for replacement of firefighting vehicles and firefighting equipment.
- \$5 million over three years for a new Home Energy Savings Program, which provides grants to low-income households for cost-effective home upgrades to improve energy efficiency, including insulation and air sealing, and \$4 million over three years for a new Home Energy Efficiency Loan Program, which offers low-interest financing of up to \$10,000 for energy efficiency home upgrades
- \$100,000 annually in 2017-18 and 2018-19 for the continued implementation of the Labrador Caribou Initiative to collect data that is critical to the long-term sustainable management of the George River caribou herd in Labrador.
- \$250,000 for environmental site assessments of former military radar sites in Labrador.

Leveraging Federal Funding

The Provincial Government is committed to collaborating with the Government of Canada to leverage federal funding to maximize infrastructure and investment. Budget 2017 commitments include:

- \$10 million toward infrastructure improvements, with a federal contribution of approximately \$60 million through the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

- A provincial commitment of \$35 million over the next two years to leverage \$25 million in federal funding through the Small Communities Fund of the New Building Canada Fund.
- \$15 million in provincial funding and approximately \$16.6 million in federal contributions for National and Regional Projects of the Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component of the New Building Canada Fund.
- A pre-commitment of \$4 million for a five-year program starting in 2018-19 for remediation of the former military radar site at Hopedale. This will be supported by \$2 million in funding from the Federal Government.
- \$100,000 in provincial funding with an anticipated revenue of \$50,000 in federal funding for the Dam Safety Program to continue a refreshed dam inventory.
- \$900,000 to enter into a funding arrangement with the Federal Government related to the Contraventions Act, which will impact Fines Administration, the Sheriff's Office and Provincial Court.
- \$500,000 to begin planning for the construction of a new court complex in St. John's.
- \$450,000 to address the increasing demand on the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador – Family Division in St. John's.
- Approximately \$390,000 to address an increase in major cases and to avoid unreasonable delays in criminal trials as set out in the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision, *R v Jordan*.
- Approximately \$370,000 to strengthen the court system in Labrador, which includes the creation of four permanent positions (three sheriffs and one court manager) in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.
- \$250,000 for Sexual Assault Response Pilot Program to provide legal support to sexual assault victims.
- \$120,000 to determine the feasibility of a drug treatment court in an effort to reduce the number of crimes committed to support drug addictions.
- \$285,000 to establish Family Information Liaison Units in participation with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- \$195,000 for renovations to the Supreme Court Trial Division in St. John's.
- \$100,000 to advance planning to replace Her Majesty's Penitentiary.

Justice and Public Safety

The Department of Justice and Public Safety focuses on providing safe, efficient and effective policing, corrections, court facilities and legal services throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. Budget 2017 commitments include:

- Approximately \$7.8 million for transition houses, including over \$780,000 in new funding so that transition houses can provide the necessary services to women and children fleeing violence.
- \$1 million to complete the inquiry into the death of Donald Dunphy and to start an inquiry into search and rescue operations.