

## **Managing growth pressures**

*August 22, 2007*

# **Government invests \$350 million more to maintain public buildings**

## ***More than 100 facilities to be upgraded across the province***

*Edmonton...* The Alberta government will spend \$350 million to fix and maintain more than 100 schools, hospitals, post-secondary facilities and government buildings across the province.

This investment is part of the Stelmach government’s plan to ensure existing government-owned and supported infrastructure is properly maintained and repaired.

“While we must continue to invest in new infrastructure to keep up with growth in the province, we must also make sure we look after what we already have,” said Premier Ed Stelmach. “It is significantly more expensive to replace or rebuild infrastructure than it is to keep it properly maintained, so investment such as this just makes sense.”

This \$350-million investment will pay for more than 100 capital maintenance and renewal projects, including roof repairs and major systems upgrades on post-secondary institutions, health facilities, government buildings and schools. Details of the projects are still being finalized. The \$350 million is over and above the \$1.2 billion government has already committed to capital maintenance and renewal projects over the next three years.

“We have been working very closely with communities and stakeholders to determine their capital maintenance needs,” said Gene Zwozdesky, Associate Minister of Capital Planning. “This funding is a big step toward addressing those needs and is one aspect of government’s overall plan to address Alberta’s current and future growth.”

Following is the breakdown of funding by ministry:

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>Total</b>
Advanced Education & Technology	\$111 million	--	\$111 million
Education	\$97 million	--	\$97 million
Health & Wellness	\$53 million	\$34 million	\$87 million
Infrastructure & Transportation	\$23 million	--	\$23 million
Municipal Affairs & Housing	\$3 million	--	\$3 million
Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture	\$29 million	--	\$29 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$316 million</b>	<b>\$34 million</b>	<b>\$350 million</b>

Funding for this initiative was made available from the unanticipated 2006-07 surplus of \$682 million announced in June. Based on government’s new surplus allocation policy, one-third of that amount went to savings and two-thirds was earmarked for capital maintenance projects and other capital priorities.

Government’s annual report, *Measuring Up*, reports that 95 per cent of health facilities, 97 per cent of schools, and 90 per cent of post-secondary institutions are in good or fair physical condition.

This funding is one of the actions under the Stelmach government's plan to manage growth pressures. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, improve Albertans' quality of life, build a stronger Alberta, and provide safe and secure communities.

-30-

**Media enquiries may be directed to:**

Bart Johnson, Communications  
Treasury Board  
(780) 427-6699

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Treasury Board Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

---

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2007 Government of Alberta