



Date: Friday, September 5, 2008

Event: Building Canada Infrastructure Plan Approved Projects for 2008/09

Check Against Delivery

- Thank you minister Day.
- As anyone who lives in British Columbia knows, flooding is one of the most prevalent and challenging hazards we face in this province.
- With more than 290,000 rivers and waterways criss-crossing B.C. it's not surprising that some level of flooding occurs in one or more parts of this province on an annual basis.
- In the Spring of 2007, we witnessed the true magnitude of the flood threat in B.C.
- Provincially, we faced what could have been one of the most devastating floods we have ever seen.
- While some communities were impacted by flooding that year, overall, the damage was far less than it could have been.
- In part, this was due to a high level of planning and preparation prior to the high waters.
- Local governments, the Province and the federal government all worked together to ensure B.C. was as prepared as we could be.
- This included \$33 million in funding from the federal and provincial governments for 88 flood protection projects in communities throughout B.C.
- And following the 2007 flood event, Premier Gordon Campbell committed \$100 million over 10 years for further flood protection projects in B.C.
- And earlier this year, the federal government committed \$60 million for this initiative.
- This combined level of funding will help our communities address existing flood issues and prevent future emergencies.
- Through partnerships like this one, our governments are working together and putting the safety of British Columbians first.
- Thank you.