

# Capital Estimates 2016-2017

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Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in the House to table the 2016-2017 Capital Estimates. Today's capital budget continues the plan we introduced last year. A plan that applies sound asset management principles, provides much needed stimulus to our economy and leverages our investments.

Every resident of our province is affected by our public infrastructure. Consider the children in our schools, the businesses and workers who use our transportation network and the cross-sections of society who use our health care system on a daily basis. These assets play an important role in their lives.

New Brunswickers are right to expect their public assets to be well-maintained. Unfortunately, investment has not kept pace with the demands placed on our infrastructure. We have seen the Auditor General conclude that funding levels in recent years would not allow for much needed work to be completed on a timely basis. This is why we applied asset management methodologies and principles in prioritizing projects in our first capital budget. Principles, I am pleased to note, we continue to apply.

New Brunswickers recognize that by budgeting for repairs to their homes or vehicles, they are also supporting their local contractor or mechanic. They also understand that if they delay these repairs too long, the bill can grow significantly. As a province, we create the same opportunities for our businesses and face the same budget challenges – just on a larger scale.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen challenges in our economy in recent years. Private sector investment is now below 2005 levels. Major investment projects such as the Sisson mine and Energy East are on the horizon. We continue to invest strategically in key public infrastructure projects as a bridge to increased private sector investment that leads to increased economic activity and long-term sustainable jobs.

Today's capital budget provides an important stimulus to an economy that is in the midst of a fragile recovery. For the upcoming fiscal year, our government will be investing \$656.1 million in our public infrastructure. This level of investment will contribute an estimated \$494 million in GDP and maintain upwards of

6,200 jobs next year. My Cabinet colleagues and I will provide additional details when we present our departmental estimates for debate.

## **Education**

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to schools, our families and communities expect them to be well-maintained, healthy and safe. By investing in our schools we are creating a supportive environment where our children can develop the skills they will need to thrive in our modern society.

I am pleased to announce that in 2016-2017, our government will invest a total of \$108.6 million in our K-12 infrastructure. This level of investment demonstrates our commitment to the education system and making New Brunswick the best place to raise a family.

## **Health**

Mr. Speaker, the pressures on our health care system are well documented and demand for services continues to grow. To meet these rising demands, we need to invest wisely in priority areas to ensure that our health care infrastructure is effective, efficient and provides quality health care to New Brunswickers.

Today's budget includes a total of \$72.1 million for the maintenance and improvement of our health care infrastructure.

## **Transportation**

Mr. Speaker, the New Brunswick economy relies heavily on trade – both within our province and beyond our borders – and a well-maintained transportation network plays a vital role in ensuring that our goods make it to market as efficiently as possible. A safe and reliable transportation network also plays an important role in the day-to-day lives of New Brunswickers as they travel throughout the province for work and personal reasons. Through the continued application of asset management principles, our government is investing \$413.3 million in priority projects and in the maintenance and repair of our transportation infrastructure.

## **Multi-Year Capital Plan**

Mr. Speaker, today's budget is a continuation of the multi-year capital plan we introduced last year. The estimates for 2016-2017 and projected investments through to 2018-2019 demonstrate we have a plan. We remain committed to our multi-year plan that will see an average of \$149 million spent annually on strategic infrastructure projects.

## **Conclusion**

Mr. Speaker, we all use our public infrastructure on a daily basis. By investing strategically, we can ensure that New Brunswick has a well-maintained network of public assets that responds to our ongoing needs and contributes significantly to our economic well-being and quality of life. New Brunswickers expect no less.

Mr. Speaker, by tabling the 2016-2017 capital budget and a multi-year plan our government is meeting these expectations. Today's estimates outline our priorities for the next three years and highlights funding to complete existing projects and maintain our buildings, roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

We continue to focus on infrastructure investments that are supported by applying sound asset management principles, growing our economy and leveraging funds from other sources to maximum effect.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

## MULTI-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Thousands

\$

	2016-2017 Budget	2017-2018 Plan	2018-2019 Plan
<b>Regular Capital Investments</b>			
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.....	500	100	100
Education and Early Childhood Development.....	65,022	43,350	41,690
Environment and Local Government.....	1,000	1,225	1,000
Health.....	70,100	85,400	100,700
Legislative Assembly.....	450	50	50
Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour.....	5,895	5,695	5,695
Regional Development Corporation.....	2,707	1,600	-
Service New Brunswick.....	3,411	-	-
Tourism, Heritage and Culture.....	1,000	1,000	1,000
Transportation and Infrastructure.....	367,250	346,755	346,160
Future-Year Capital Requests.....	-	40,000	29,000
<b>Total - Regular Capital Investments.....</b>	<b>517,335</b>	<b>525,175</b>	<b>525,395</b>
<b>Strategic Infrastructure Initiative</b>			
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.....	1,000	500	500
Education and Early Childhood Development.....	41,085	42,670	45,976
Health.....	2,000	9,800	-
Legislative Assembly.....	335	-	-
Regional Development Corporation.....	44,500	52,500	47,000
Tourism, Heritage and Culture.....	1,295	525	555
Transportation and Infrastructure.....	35,210	42,750	16,000
Energy Retrofit and Renewable Energy.....	13,340	13,340	13,340
Future-Year Capital Requests.....	-	9,000	48,000
<b>Total - Strategic Infrastructure Initiative.....</b>	<b>138,765</b>	<b>171,085</b>	<b>171,371</b>
<b>Total - Capital Expenditures.....</b>	<b>656,100</b>	<b>696,260</b>	<b>696,766</b>