



Government of Canada Invests in New Smart Meters for Abbotsford

Installation of 25,000 new water meters will enhance conservation and reduce local costs

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Abbotsford, British Columbia –Ed Fast, Member of Parliament for Abbotsford; John van Dongen, MLA for Abbotsford South; along with Mayor George W. Peary, today announced the implementation of a new remote read metering system, which will support water conservation in residences across the community, thanks to a contribution of \$1.27 million from the Gas Tax Fund.

“Funded by the Gas Tax fund, this new smart metering system will create energy efficiencies in this community and enhance the lives of the people of Abbotsford for future generations,” said MP Fast, on behalf of Canada’s Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, John Baird. “Through important initiatives like the Gas Tax Fund, our government is taking action to speed up infrastructure projects like this one, to create jobs, build a stronger economy and a healthier environment.”

Currently, the City of Abbotsford utilizes hand-held electronic touch probes to read the more than 25,000 meters located across the community. This is a labour intensive process that takes place over several months annually. The new Itron Smart Metering System will provide the City with the ability to remotely read each meter and provide the City with the tools required to better manage peak demands and implement water conservation programs.

“Abbotsford has already signed onto the Climate Action Charter so getting on board with water metering is an additional green benefit for citizens and the community at large,” said John van Dongen, MLA for Abbotsford South.

The Itron Smart Metering System also assists with the protection of the city’s water supply by remotely detecting possible leaks in individual services, malfunctioning meters and reverse flow in a service connection almost immediately.

“With this new technology, leaks will be detected almost as soon as they start,” said Abbotsford Mayor George W. Peary. “Residents will be notified almost right away which will save not only the costs associated with leaks, but assist with conserving the city’s water supply. Additionally, this new system assists us with reducing our carbon footprint by eliminating the need for vehicles to visit every household each year.”

The Government of Canada’s Gas Tax Fund is a tripartite agreement between Canada, British Columbia and UBCM delivering infrastructure funding to local governments for capital projects that lead to cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The Government of Canada extended the Gas Tax to 2014 to provide a total of \$1.6 billion in funding for local infrastructure in British Columbia. UBCM administers the Gas Tax Fund in B.C. in collaboration with Canada and British Columbia.

“Renewed infrastructure is a key to building efficient, sustainable communities,” said UBCM President Harry Nyce. “Abbotsford’s new project demonstrates the commitment of all levels of government to work together to safeguard local water systems.”

For further information on the Government of Canada’s infrastructure investments in British Columbia, visit www.creatingjobs.gc.ca. To learn more about Canada’s Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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