



JAMES Wastewater Treatment Plant Receives Federal Gas Tax Fund Contribution for an Ultraviolet (UV) Disinfection Project

ABBOTSFORD BC – February 12, 2016 – Wastewater treatment in Abbotsford and Mission will receive a substantial upgrade thanks to \$4.273 million from Canada's Gas Tax Fund.

The City of Abbotsford and District of Mission jointly own and operate the Joint Abbotsford Mission Environmental Systems Wastewater Treatment Plant (JAMES Plant), located in Abbotsford. The Gas Tax funding for the JAMES Ultraviolet (UV) Disinfection Project will support upgrades to the plant that will eliminate the existing chemical handling requirements in the treatment process, improving health and safety for the JAMES operators and resulting in less greenhouse gas emissions than the current technology.

Project design will begin in 2016 with installation and construction commencing once designs are final. The project is estimated to be complete by the end of 2017.

Quick Facts

- The JAMES Plant UV Disinfection Project is receiving \$4.273 million from the federal Gas Tax Fund which covers the entire cost of the project.
- This project is one of the 57 projects that are being funded through the Strategic Priorities Fund under the Federal Gas Tax Fund for 2016.
- The Union of BC Municipalities administers the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.
- Each year, the Government of Canada provides over \$253 million in indexed funding for local government infrastructure projects across British Columbia through the federal Gas Tax Fund. The funding can be spent on any eligible project the community prioritizes across a broad range of eligible project categories, or it can be pooled with other communities for regional projects, banked for later priorities or used to pay for financed projects.

Quotes

"Through the federal Gas Tax Fund, the Government of Canada allows communities in British Columbia, and all across Canada, to fund local infrastructure projects that best meet their communities' needs. The funding announced today means that the joint Abbotsford Mission wastewater treatment facility will use a healthier and more environmentally friendly technology to treat wastewater effluent. The end result will be improved protection for the Fraser River."

Jati Sidhu: Member of Parliament for Mission—Matsqui—Fraser Canyon

On behalf of the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

"These upgrades to the James wastewater treatment plant will ensure that residents of not only Abbotsford, but also Mission and Sumas will enjoy safer, and better quality water for years to come."

Michael DeJong, BC Minister of Finance and House Leader, MLA Abbotsford West

"Upgrading the James wastewater treatment plant disinfection system from chlorine gas and sulphur dioxide, to ultraviolet light will mean a safer and cleaner environment."

Simon Gibson, MLA Abbotsford-Mission

“This is an exciting day for our Province and our local residents who will benefit from the advantages that come from using this new technology to upgrade our aging facility and treat our wastewater. Congratulations to all who worked together to make this happen.”

Darryl Plecas, MLA Abbotsford South

“We’re elated to receive funding for upgrades to the James Wastewater Treatment Plant, and I’m pleased to recognize how the municipalities of Abbotsford and Mission came together to ensure a common goal could be achieved and the residents of both these communities could benefit together.”

Marc Dalton, MLA Maple Ridge-Mission

“This significant investment in our community by the Government of Canada will provide for key upgrades to our JAMES Wastewater Treatment Plant. It will not only enhance safety for our JAMES workers, it will ensure that we meet or exceed all municipal and federal regulations.”

Henry Braun, Mayor of the City of Abbotsford

"Thank you to the UBCM, the Federal and the Province of British Columbia for funding this important project. This work will improve safety for our citizens and operators at the plant, and improve the quality of the effluent that is discharged into the Fraser. We are happy to be moving forward on this important project."

Randy Hawes Mayor of the District of Mission

“The federal Gas Tax Fund is helping local governments accelerate their capital investment plans. These investments will support improved levels of service for facilities in communities throughout BC. The 189 local governments that we represent appreciate the ongoing commitment of the Government of Canada to improving local infrastructure. We are also pleased with the valued support provided by the Province of British Columbia to deliver this program.”

Al Richmond, President, Union of BC Municipalities

Associated Links:

To learn more about the federal Gas Tax Fund visit: <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/qtf-fte-eng.html>.

To learn more about other projects recently announced under the Strategic Priorities Fund visit <http://infc.gc.ca/b5a1>.

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Backgrounder

Each year the Government of Canada transfers over \$253 million to the Province of British Columbia through the federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF). The funding is predictable, permanent and indexed to provide communities with a reliable ongoing funding source for their local infrastructure projects. The GTF provides communities with maximum flexibility. They can spend, bank, pool or use the funds to pay down infrastructure loans. Communities are free to direct the GTF to the eligible infrastructure projects they choose.

In British Columbia, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) administers the Gas Tax Fund, in partnership with Canada and British Columbia.

- The Community Works Fund, which provides per-capita allocation-based funding for all BC communities;
- The Greater Vancouver Regional Fund, which pools a percentage of the GVRD and its member local governments' per-capita allocation for regional transportation projects proposed by the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (TransLink) and approved by the GVRD Board;
- The Strategic Priorities Fund, which provides communities outside the GVRD with access to pooled, application-based funding for projects larger in scale, or regional in impact, or innovative.

In late January, the Gas Tax Fund Management Committee approved funding for 57 new infrastructure projects from among the 222 applications it received under the Strategic Priorities Fund. Funding was approved for thirty capacity building projects and twenty-seven capital projects.

Below is the list of the approved projects:

Local Government	Project Title	Total GTF Funding
District of 100 Mile House	100 Mile House Water Supply Upgrade	\$5,850,000
Town of Osoyoos	Rural Area Water System Twinning	\$2,472,000
District of Barriere	Water Supply and Distribution System Improvements	\$4,836,735
Columbia Shuswap Regional District	Sunnybrae Water System Upgrade	\$1,701,032
City of Merritt	Water Treatment Upgrades	\$2,280,000
District of Peachland	Priority 1 Asset Management Projects: Coldham and Greata Pressure Reducing Valves Replacements	\$612,500
The Corporation of the Village of Lumby	Lumby's Sustainable Water Plan - Stage 1 Revitalization Works	\$1,711,938
Village of Sayward	Village of Sayward Water Treatment Facility	\$2,922,750
Cariboo Regional District	Sam Ketcham Pool Upgrade at the West Fraser Aquatic Centre	\$4,000,000
City of Terrace	Terrace Aquatic Centre Renewal/Upgrade	\$4,325,430
City of Cranbrook	Idlewild Park Rehabilitation Project	\$2,800,000

Regional District of Central Kootenay	Nelson and District Community Complex 2015 Pool Renewal	\$4,597,200
District of West Kelowna	Chlorine Room - Johnson Bentley Memorial Aquatic Centre	\$85,000
City of Prince George	Masich Place Stadium Artificial Turf Field	\$3,200,000
City of Salmon Arm	Water Pollution Control Centre - Ultraviolet (UV) Light Disinfection System Upgrade	\$650,000
City of Abbotsford	JAMES Plant Ultraviolet (UV) Disinfection Project	\$4,273,000
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District	Bralorne Wastewater Collection System Upgrade and Secondary Treatment	\$1,999,530
District of Squamish	Ultraviolet (UV) Disinfection of Sewage Effluent	\$952,000
Village of Granisle	Granisle Bioenergy District Heating System	\$637,000
District of Hudson's Hope	Solar Electric Panel Farm Array	\$1,350,000
City of Kimberley	Gerry Sorensen Way Reconstruction	\$4,500,000
Village of Zeballos	Zeballos River Crossing	\$2,945,775
Town of Qualicum Beach	Memorial Avenue Active Transportation and Utility Upgrade	\$600,000
City of Courtenay	5th St "Complete Street" Pilot Project	\$3,253,000
Cowichan Valley Regional District	Meade Creek Recycling Centre Upgrades & Ash Landfill Closure Project	\$2,560,000
Regional District of Mount Waddington	Seven Mile Recycling Scales	\$60,000
Town of Smithers	Smithers Regional Airport Terminal Building Expansion and Improvements	\$4,000,000
District of Mackenzie	District of Mackenzie Long-term Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan	\$89,500
City of Castlegar	City of Castlegar Asset Management & Climate Change Prioritization Framework	\$250,000
City of Grand Forks	City of Grand Forks Performance Measurement & Reporting Framework for Sustainable Service Delivery	\$195,000
District of Invermere	District of Invermere Infrastructure Replacement Priority Plan	\$65,000
Village of Fruitvale	Village of Fruitvale AM Investment Plan & Prioritization Framework for Capital Infrastructure Planning	\$45,000
City of Rossland	Asset Management Investment Plan	\$75,000
Sunshine Coast Regional District	Sunshine Coast Regional District Enterprise Asset Management Software Implementation	\$412,831
Village of Hazelton	Village of Hazelton Long-term Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan, Phase 2	\$58,700
City of Prince Rupert	City of Prince Rupert – Asset Management – Phase 1	\$97,250
District of Port Edward	Asset Management Projects	\$60,000
City of Penticton	Prioritization Framework for Capital Planning	\$42,000
District of Sicamous	Asset Management Systems	\$35,000
District of Summerland	District of Summerland Integrated Asset Management & Infrastructure Investment Plan	\$372,000
Village of Ashcroft	Village of Ashcroft Long-Term Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan	\$48,700

City of Revelstoke	Strengthening Organizational Adoption of Asset Management	\$32,500
City of Victoria	City of Victoria Facility Condition Assessment	\$300,000
City of Nanaimo	City of Nanaimo Comprehensive Risk Framework for Asset Management	\$39,500
Strathcona Regional District	Strathcona Regional District Asset Management Plan Development/Condition Assessments	\$90,000
Town of Ladysmith	Town of Ladysmith Asset Management: Assessment and planning	\$80,000
District of Wells	District of Wells Integrated Official Community Plan	\$77,107
Village of Salmo	Salmo Official Community Plan: Shaping a Sustainable Future	\$75,000
Village of Warfield	Village of Warfield Integrated Official Community Plan	\$77,138
District of Mission	Sustainable Mission - District of Mission Official Community Plan Review - 2015	\$225,000
District of West Kelowna	District of West Kelowna Upper Glenrosa Area Plan – Phase 2 and 3	\$100,152
Capital Regional District	Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Island Integrated Service Plan	\$50,000
District of Squamish	District of Squamish Integrated Stormwater Management Plan	\$160,000
Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District	Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD Regional Recycling Depot Asset Management Plan	\$18,489
City of Vernon	City of Vernon Long-Term Sanitary Sewer Utility Plan	\$46,500
Okanagan Basin Water Board	Environmental Flow Needs for Okanagan Water Planning	\$397,000
Central Okanagan Regional District	Regional District of Central Okanagan Regional Strategic Transportation Plan	\$600,000

For more information on the federal Gas Tax Fund, please visit <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/gtf-fte-eng.html>.

For more information on the individual projects in the above list, please direct your questions to the communities themselves.