



## Infrastructure Funding Announced for Ontario and Newfoundland/Labrador

Details were released May regarding federal funding under the *Knowledge Infrastructure Program* for university and college infrastructure in the Provinces of Ontario and Newfoundland & Labrador. This two-year \$2 billion Program was part of the January 2009 Federal Budget infrastructure stimulus measures. This brings the total federal commitment announced to date to just over \$1.2 billion. [more](#) [\(Part 1\)](#) [\(Part 2\)](#)

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## Feds Release Details on Career Transition Assistance Measures

The Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development released details on May of the Federal Government's measures to assist unemployed individuals who have been employed for a significant length of time and have made only a limited use of EI. They include providing extended EI benefits to those taking longer-term training and earlier access to EI where they use severance pay to pay for their training/retraining. [read more](#)

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## CSC Updating LMI – B.C. First Update

The Construction Sector Council (CSC) is busy producing its annual reports on construction labour markets under its *Labour Market Information (LMI) Program*. The first Highlight report for the 2009-2017 period was issued this past week for British Columbia. The Report states that the industry in B.C. will need to replace some 26,000 retiring workers in the forecast period and needs an additional 6,400 to meet projected rising demand that is being driven by increased infrastructure spending and investments in mining and utilities. [read more](#)

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## Federal infrastructure projects slow to get underway, report finds

Few shovels have hit the ground in urgent construction work the federal government promised four months ago to help goose Canada's ailing economy, a survey shows. The Canadian Press examined a group of key infrastructure projects, worth \$462 million this year, that were outlined in January's deficit-driven federal budget. [read more](#)

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## Canadian Economic Accounts – First quarter 2009 and March 2009

Real gross domestic product (GDP) declined 1.4% in the first quarter, the largest quarterly decrease since 1991. Both domestic and international demand continued to weaken. Real GDP fell 0.3% in March. The declines in February and March were less pronounced than those in the preceding three months. [read more](#) ➔

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