

Ontario pledges \$27.5-billion for infrastructure

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TORONTO — Ontario will spend \$27.5-billion on roads, schools and transit over the next two years in effort to create 300,000 new jobs.

Premier Dalton McGuinty says the infrastructure investment — which will come in Thursday's budget — is a key part of the province's plan for the economy.

It doubles the amount invested in the 2008-2009 period.

Ottawa has promised \$5-billion for infrastructure, bringing the total amount available for projects to \$32.5-billion.

Transportation projects will get the biggest chunk of money, at \$9-billion, followed by health care at \$7-billion and education at \$4-billion.

The investment is expected to translate into 146,000 jobs in the first year and 168,000 in the second.

This week's budget is expected to include a deficit of about \$18-billion over two years.