Ontario

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

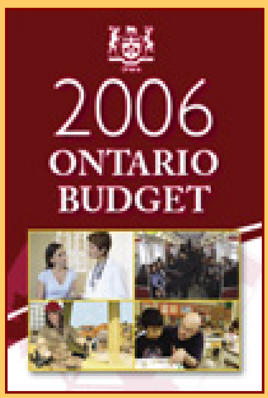
PIRNETNEWS

Building and growing for a better tomorrow

April 2006

Volume 2 No.4

The Budget - Building Opportunity, Building Infrastructure



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The plan includes:

- the new $1.2 billion *Move Ontario* investment in transit, roads and bridges to help move people and goods faster, create jobs and build a stronger economy;
- $2.4 billion in low-cost, long-term loans for municipalities through the Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Finance Authority;
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- $623 million to enhance border crossings in Windsor, Niagara and Sarnia (with the federal government and other partners); and,
- issuing Requests for Proposals for 11 major hospital projects in 2006-07 worth $2 billion through Infrastructure Ontario.

[For the full story, click here.]

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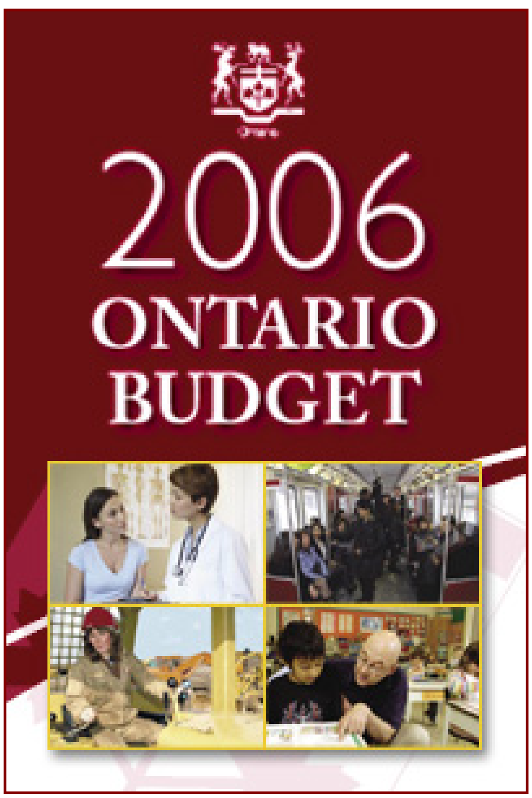

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- issuing Requests for Proposals for 11 major hospital projects in 2006-07 worth $2 billion through Infrastructure Ontario.

Major infrastructure investments, including *Move Ontario, ReNew Ontario* and electricity projects are expected to create approximately 480,000 jobs between 2006 and 2012.

Move Ontario provides a $1.2 billion investment in public transit and municipal roads and bridges – an enhancement to the $30 billion that will be invested over five years through *ReNew Ontario*.

The province made a significant contribution to transit expansion. The transportation package includes a landmark $838 million investment in municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) to help build a new subway into York Region and for other projects to fight gridlock and speed travel across Brampton and Mississauga.

Move Ontario includes a plan to create the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority (GTTA), which wasannounced almost exactly one month after the Budget, on April 24. If the proposed legislation is passed, it will bring the province together with municipalities to develop a seamless and integrated transportation plan for road, rail and transit in a region-wide approach to transit and transportation in the GTA and Hamilton.

Another $400 million has been allocated to 428 municipalities, with special emphasis on small, rural and northern communities for roads and bridges – enough money to repair up to 800 bridges, or resurface 3,000 kilometres of road.

The Budget includes support for municipalities through the gas tax. After five years, this program will have delivered over $1.4 billion to public transit in Ontario. Municipalities can now use the gas tax money for operating costs as well as capital expenditures.

The Budget also reinforces PIR's *ReNew Ontario* strategy and the proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH), two of the ministry's major initiatives. The GTTA relates directly to the crucial elements of transit and transportation in the proposed Growth Plan for the GGH.

"We are very encouraged by the way that the Budget complements PIR's mandate and key priorities," said Minister Caplan. "It provides for: strategic long-term investment in infrastructure through *ReNew*

Ontario; using infrastructure investments to promote sustainable communities to achieve the objectives of the proposed Growth Plan for the GGH; and funding infrastructure that supports critical government priorities, including economic growth and enhanced access to health care and education."

It also marks a change from the planning and preparation phase of the ministry's work to implementation of those plans.

There are currently almost 2,000 public infrastructure projects either being planned or built across Ontario. With the new investments articulated in the budget, the pace of implementation is expected to increase dramatically.

Click here for furthur information about the Budget.

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West Don Lands - a "model" redevelopment begins on Toronto's waterfront

Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal David Caplan joined federal and municipal colleagues on March 27 to launch the work on one of the most important urban revitalization projects in Ontario – the West Don Lands.

“Toronto’s West Don Lands is a waterfront precinct as big as London’s Canary Wharf or New York City’s Battery Park,” said Minister Caplan, “and I am confident that it will become one of the most dynamic neighbourhoods in Toronto.”

The West Don Lands is a 32-hectare area located east of downtown between Parliament Street and the Don River, and King Street and the rail corridor. It will be a model of urban renewal with greenspaces, brownfield revitalization, easy access to transit, childcare centres, and 1500 units of affordable housing in its 6000 new residences.

"This project will create an accessible, affordable community that will attract a wide range of families from diverse economic backgrounds," said Minister Caplan. “I am particularly pleased that this development – the first major sustainable community in Toronto in years – is being built on land owned by the Government of Ontario."

Project Details

The overall plan for the West Don Lands received city council approval in May 2005 and calls for:

- 6000 new residences, including 1500 units of affordable housing
- 25 per cent of community to be parks and public space including the eight-hectare Don River Park
- A new light rail transit line (LRT) within a five-minute walk of all

The $230 million West Don Lands project will provide for the demolition of buildings, cleaning contaminated soil, building parks and community buildings, creating flood protection measures and developing the light transit line along Cherry Street.

Work now underway includes building demolition, foundation removal, and environmental remediation. Flood protection construction will start soon with the expansion of CN's Kingston rail bridge, followed by the start of construction of a low-lying berm on the west side of the Don River at the end of the summer.

The West Don Lands is the Ontario government’s top waterfront revitalization priority, the centrepiece of a 2,000-acre waterfront project.

The government has shown strong leadership and support for the revitalization of the West Don Lands and the Toronto waterfront.

We used to have urban planners from all over the world come and look at the St. Lawrence neighbourhood and use Toronto as an example of doing things right. They haven’t done that now for decades and this is a chance to re-establish our leadership.

- Minister Caplan

homes
- Two childcare centres
- Community centre and pool
- Elementary school

This undertaking is the result of tri-government and interagency collaboration — with the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), Toronto and Region Conservation Authority(TRCA) and in phase one, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC).

The provincial government took title of the West Don Lands in 1996. In 2001, the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto established TWRC to oversee and lead the renewal of Toronto’s central waterfront and the West Don Lands were identified as one of the priority areas for early action.

Last September, Minister Caplan signed the West Don Lands Memorandum of Understanding. It makes the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC) the master developer and sets out the important collaborative role of the province’s land agency, the Ontario Realty Corporation, in supporting the revitalization efforts. Ontario was the first to put together such an agreement with the TWRC.

The government will also introduce legislation to enable tax increment financing to assist with brownfield redevelopment and public infrastructure development. This new municipal fiscal tool would be introduced on a pilot basis, allowing for its prudent use in revitalization initiatives. If the legislation passes, one of the two pilots would be the West Don Lands.

“The West Don Lands is an example of how our government believes modern communities should

grow,” said Minister Caplan. This will be outlined in the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, to be released later this spring.
He explained that the project follows the important principles of growth planning, from affordable housing to brownfield revitalization and transit-oriented development.

Minister Caplan commented: “The West Don Lands project symbolizes our commitment to the restoration of Ontario’s public infrastructure. The McGuinty government inherited a huge infrastructure deficit, and we developed the comprehensive $30-billion *ReNew Ontario* investment plan to address how we will pay down that deficit. Now, we have begun to implement that plan. Just as work begins at the West Don Lands, so shovels are going into the ground in infrastructure renewal projects right across the province.”

Said at the Ceremony

"The work you see happening here is putting into action the key principles underlying waterfront revitalization – design excellence, sustainable, green development and communities that are attractive and affordable for all Canadians."
TWRC Chair Robert Fung

"This new community highlights the power of intergovernmental cooperation, active citizen participation and commitment to a common goal. Together, we can work to make this initiative a model of accountable regional development."
John Baird, President of the Treasury Board of Canada and the federal Minister responsible for the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Initiative

"Torontonians are getting what they asked for: action and access to our waterfront. But above all, they are getting a revitalized, clean and green, and liveable waterfront where they can live, work and play and enjoy a quality of life that strengthens our city's competitive advantage."
Toronto Mayor David Miller

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The terms set out in the AIP would provide First Nations with 1.6 per cent of gross revenue from all provincial gaming, starting in 2011. Ontario First Nations would also receive approximately $155 million over the next six years. Under an agreement signed in 2000, Ontario First Nations receive provincial gaming revenue from a single gaming site – Casino Rama.

"Our government is committed to building opportunity and this Agreement-In-Principle is an important step forward in meeting the needs of First Nations communities," said Premier McGuinty. "It provides the foundation for a stronger partnership with First Nations as we work together to invest in their communities in a number of areas such as the education, skills and health of First Nations peoples."

In February 2005, the McGuinty government appointed former Premier David Peterson to lead discussions with First Nations on a new agreement for distributing gaming revenue to Ontario First Nations.

"This First Nations Gaming and Revenue Sharing Agreement-in-Principle represents a new relationship between First Nations within Ontario and the Province. It is an opportunity for our partners to build upon existing successes as well as address their community growth and development. We look forward to finalizing the agreements required to move forward," said Harvey Yesno, President of the OFNLP.

The AIP was signed by Premier McGuinty on behalf of the Ontario government and by the OLGC and the OFNLP. It provides that the parties will seek to negotiate binding legal agreements to give effect to the terms of the AIP by December 31, 2006.

> **This agreement will make a lasting difference in the lives of First Nations people throughout the province. Increased revenue will ensure First Nations can invest in their people and in their communities. It will help families trying to give their children a good start in life. It will help young people fulfil their dreams for a rewarding career. And it will give hope to entire communities by supporting infrastructure and economic development.**
>
> *- Premier McGuinty*

Click here to view the video of Premier McGuinty's message at the signing of the agreement.

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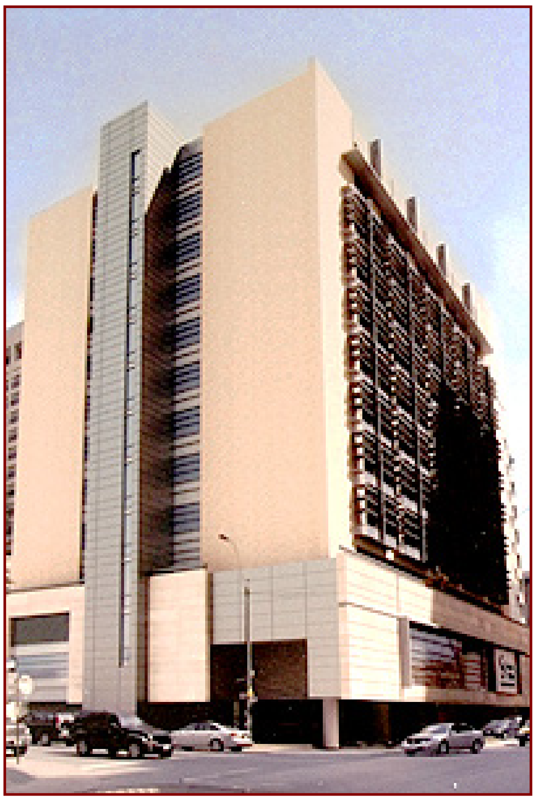

Momentum is building in the Ontario government's five-year infrastructure investment in hospitals. The government has announced two new hospital projects, released five requests for qualification to build and finance health care facilities through Infrastructure Ontario, and provided new funding from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation for the Sault Area Hospital.

These health care projects are an essential part of the McGuinty government's plan to reduce wait times and upgrade hospitals, medical facilities and equipment across the province.

"They are landmarks in our commitment to modernize infrastructure and ensure value for taxpayer dollars as we build strong, prosperous communities," said Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal David Caplan.

The projects will be managed by the government's Crown corporation, Infrastructure Ontario.

Six Requests for Qualification

Quinte Healthcare Corporation – Belleville Site redevelopment

A major 77-bed expansion and other improvements are planned for Quinte Healthcare Corporation's hospital in Belleville.

The project includes:

- expanding the complex continuing care unit, the rehabilitation program and the intensive care unit;

- constructing a new Children's Treatment Centre; and
- redeveloping support services

Trillium Health Centre – Mississauga and Queensway Sites expansion and redevelopment
A new west wing will be built in Mississauga, including:

- an additional cardiac catheterization lab;
- an additional cardiac operating room;
- three additional cardiovascular intensive care beds;
- two additional coronary care beds;
- medical-surgical beds; and,
- redeveloped and modernized space for 135 beds.

A new Ambulatory Cancer Detection and Treatment facility in Etobicoke will replace the temporary Mississauga facility. Construction is expected to begin in 2006.

Sudbury Regional Hospital – phase two restructuring
New construction and renovations will consolidate acute and rehabilitation services from three sites to one site. Once completed, the hospital will accommodate up to 429 acute and rehabilitation beds. The construction project is expected to begin next year and be completed in two to three years.

St. Joseph's Health Care, London – St. Joseph's Hospital Site redevelopment
Completion of the renovation of the Grosvenor Street site will support its new role in ambulatory care and day surgery. The investment will accelerate the consolidation of the Grosvenor Street, Parkwood and St. Thomas sites, and will streamline patient care in the London region.

Bluewater Health, Sarnia – Norman Site expansion and renovation.
Redevelopment of the community hospital will include:

- consolidation of ambulatory care, complex continuing care, acute mental health programs, and a maternal program;
- expansion of a dialysis unit;
- a larger emergency facility;
- expanded capacity providing up to 267 acute care beds (including two new intensive care unit beds, nine mental health beds, and seven rehabilitation beds); and,
- eight redeveloped operating rooms.

Construction work on the facility is expected to begin

March moves Sault Ste. Marie closer to hospital goal

In just ten days, contributions from both the province and a private corporation moved Sault Ste. Marie almost $2 million closer to the $13.5-million dollar fundraising goal for the new Sault Area Hospital (SAH). On March 20, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLGC) announced an investment of $750,000, following the $1 million donated by Tenaris Algoma Tubes on March 10.

Both the new hospital's laboratory and CT Unit – described as "the nucleus" of the new hospital – will be named in the OLGC's honour.

Sault Area Hospital (SAH) is an amalgamation of two hospitals that formerly served Sault Ste. Marie – the in 2006/07.

Sault Area Hospital
A new hospital will serve the Sault area. See sidebar for details.

New Hospital Announcements

Toronto Rehabilitation Institute
Upgrades will accommodate 176 rehabilitation beds and future inpatient services and increase ambulatory activity. The project will also provide a new focus on the hospital's education and research role with new research facilities including the world-class iDAPT Laboratories (intelligent Design for Adaptation, Participation and Technology).

former Plummer Memorial Hospital and Sault Ste. Marie General Hospital.

On August 18, 2005, the McGuinty government announced its intention to build a new, state-of-the-art hospital to serve the Sault area. The new facility will have up to 289 beds and provide a wide range of hospital services, including acute care, pediatrics, surgical care and mental health programs. The hospital site will also include a heliport for air ambulances. It is scheduled to open in 2009.

Woodstock General Hospital
The construction of a new 154-bed hospital on a greenfield site will replace outdated facilities that have surpassed their life expectancy. The new facility will include a new 22-bed rehabilitation unit, 10 additional complex continuing care beds and two additional mental health beds.

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Built at a cost of $107 million, Accolade's two new buildings frame the existing fine arts complex at the heart of York University's Keele campus. They will be a home for students in dance, drama, film, music, visual arts and theatre.

The 33,000 square-metre facility includes lecture halls, classrooms and computer labs; a 325-seat recital hall and recording studio; a proscenium theatre with an orchestra pit and a generous stage, wings and backstage space; a student-run gallery; new media project rooms; and a 500-seat cinema and lecture hall.

"This facility will surely be at the forefront of cultural expression in this country for many decades to come," Minister Caplan said. "Generations of performers and artists and educators will study and train here, and they will go on to profoundly change the way Canada sees itself, and the way that vision is expressed. It is an important milestone in the evolution of the fine arts in Ontario and indeed, in all of Canada."

The new fine arts centre at York University is part of a cultural renaissance in Toronto that includes some of the most outstanding architectural projects in recent years with expansions at the Royal

Ontario Museum, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Royal Conservatory of Music, the National Ballet School and the construction of the new Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

The Accolade Project will be a catalyst to increase interaction and collaboration among the artistic disciplines and will contribute to the growth of the vibrant arts and culture scene in the heart of the GTA.

Click here for more information about the Accolade Project at York University.

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Together with municipal contributions, the total COMRIF investment in local infrastructure improvements will be over $340 million.

"Partnerships with federal and municipal governments are essential to building and renewing the infrastructure Ontario communities need to thrive," said David Caplan, Ontario Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal.

These investments cover the full range of COMRIF Intake Two priorities, which will result in upgrades to provide clean, safe drinking water, better sewage systems, improved waste management processes, and safer roads and bridges.

COMRIF Intake Three will be launched in spring 2006 through a public announcement and direct contact with eligible municipalities. All Ontario municipalities of fewer than 250,000 people are eligible to apply to COMRIF to improve their local infrastructure.

Under the five-year, $900-million COMRIF, the governments of Canada and Ontario are working together with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and local partners to enhance and renew Ontario's aging public infrastructure, improve the quality of the environment, protect the health and safety of citizens, support long-term economic growth and build strong, sustainable communities by giving municipalities the tools they need.

Said at the COMRIF announcement on April 21

"The Government of Ontario, together with our federal and municipal partners, is committed to restoring this province's public infrastructure. Today's COMRIF announcements will help achieve our *ReNew Ontario* initiative, the province's five-year plan to revitalize public infrastructure."
David Caplan, Ontario Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal.

"Canada's new government supports working with the provinces and municipalities to get things done. Through COMRIF, we are delivering over $117 million in funding that you can see right across the province. From better roads to improved drinking water, this is a program communities depend on."
Tony Clement, Federal Minister of Health and Minister responsible for COMRIF.

"We are committed to providing Ontario's rural and small urban communities with the tools they need to renew essential infrastructure. Today's 88 COMRIF announcements demonstrate the McGuinty government's progress in strengthening our rural communities."
Leona Dombrowsky, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

"COMRIF is an important trilateral partnership for Canada, Ontario and municipalities in this province. It demonstrates that investment in municipal infrastructure is a shared responsibility that creates tangible economic and environmental benefits locally, provincially and nationally."
Roger Anderson, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Click here for more information on the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

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