
News Release

**WINNIPEG PORTION OF TRANS CANADA TRAIL TO BE COMPLETED
WITH INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS**

Thursday, October 11, 2007

Winnipeg, MANITOBA – Winnipeg’s portion of the Trans Canada Trail will soon be completed, thanks to a \$2.5 million joint contribution from Canada’s New Government and the Province of Manitoba to extend the Bishop Grandin Greenway West and the Harte Trail. The funding will be provided through the Canada Manitoba Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF), and is based on equal contributions from the federal and provincial governments and Rivers West Association fundraising.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister of Healthy Living; Member of Parliament Rod Bruinooge, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification; and Paul Jordan, Chair of the Winnipeg Trails Association.

“This is a landmark day for the development of the Trans Canada Trail in Winnipeg and is great news for those interested in healthy, active lifestyles,” said Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross. “People of all ages including individuals, families and children will benefit from the results of the hard work of the volunteers who championed this cause and helped us get to the final stage of this recreation trail designed for walking, hiking, cycling, and in some areas of Manitoba, for skiing.”

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“Canada’s New Government is working in partnership with all orders of governments and stakeholders to provide communities with long-term access to healthy lifestyles and active living through infrastructure,” said MP Bruinooge. “This joint investment of \$2.5 million will bring about the completion of Winnipeg’s connection to the Trans Canada Trail, a great symbol of Canadian unity and commitment to healthy living.”

The project is part of a city-wide cyclist and pedestrian pathway system and completes Winnipeg’s portion of the Trans Canada Trail, which is an 18,000 km recreational corridor winding its way through every Province and Territory, linking over 800 communities along its route. When completed, it will be the longest trail of its kind in the world, connecting Canada’s regions, three oceans, and people in a new way for generations to come.

The Trans Canada Trail in Winnipeg is 81 kilometres. It follows the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, and meanders through forests, parks, historic neighbourhoods, and along old rail lines and creeks.

“This is not only a critical physical connection in the Winnipeg Trails system but also demonstrates an unprecedented connection between the volunteer stewards of these trails and the government funders,” said Paul Jordan, Chair of the Winnipeg Trails Association and Director of Rivers West.

The extension of the Bishop Grandin Greenway West of the Red River will be located on the south side of Bishop Grandin Boulevard. When complete, the trail will be the longest linear east-west Greenway in South Winnipeg. It will link destinations and amenities to over 22 communities from Lagimodiere to Whyte Ridge.

The five km Harte Trail will be extended into Assiniboine Forest’s extensive trail system, and link the pathway into Assiniboine Park and onto the city parkway system. The link will also connect the Trans Canada Trail that weaves through FortWhyte Alive and will ultimately attach to the Bishop Grandin Greenway. Both extensions are part of the Winnipeg Trans Canada Trails Project.

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The initial Canada-Manitoba Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) agreement, announced in December 2004, invested a total of \$120 million in communities across Manitoba. This year, an additional \$25 million is being provided to MRIF through matching funds from the governments of Canada, Manitoba and local contributions as part of the commitment to help small communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs. This additional funding will bring the total federal and provincial investment and matching local contribution in MRIF projects to \$145 million.

Of the funds, 80 per cent are earmarked for communities with a population under 250,000, including 198 municipalities and 50 unincorporated Northern Community Councils in rural and northern Manitoba. The remaining 20 per cent of funds are awarded to communities with populations over 250,000.

More information on Canada and Manitoba infrastructure projects are available at: www.infrastructure.gc.ca and www.infrastructure.mb.ca.

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