

News Release

For Immediate Release

Waterfront Walkway Expansion Begins This Year

Project made possible thanks to Federal Gas Tax Fund

March 9, 2018 – Nanaimo, BC

The City of Nanaimo is pleased to announce that conditional approval of up to \$3.8m from the Federal Gas Tax Fund has been allocated to the City of Nanaimo's Waterfront Walkway Project.

Council and the community have recognized expanding the existing walkway as a key priority and, after extensive public consultation in 2017, an implementation plan was drafted to create a continuous walkway from Departure Bay to the Nanaimo River Estuary within a 10-year time frame. The first phase of the plan are two new sections from the BC Ferries Departure Bay Ferry Terminal to White Eagle Terrace and the introduction of the walkway in the South Downtown Waterfront. Design work is underway for these two sections and construction will be complete by 2019.

In order to receive this funding, the City of Nanaimo must demonstrate that all regulatory approvals, required leases, agreements and right of way acquisitions have been secured. If this condition is not met within a year the funding will be rescinded. In addition to the \$3.8 million from the Federal Gas Tax Fund towards the Departure Bay and South Downtown Waterfront section, the City has allocated \$4.4million in its 2018 budget for these two projects.

Each year, the Government of Canada provides over \$278 million in funding for local government infrastructure across British Columbia through the Federal Gas Tax Fund. 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.

Quotes

"Nanaimo's waterfront walkway is such a great asset to the community and will make a positive impact in the lives of the people who live here. This is a great example of how a partnership between all levels of government can do great things when we all work together."

Leonard Krog, MLA for Nanaimo

"Communities across BC are looking for funding to replace, upgrade and expand local infrastructure. The federal Gas Tax Fund is accelerating the pace of infrastructure renewal through the transfer of close to \$3 billion since 2005 for projects in our province. I appreciate the Government of Canada's long term commitment to fund priorities identified by BC local governments"

*Director Wendy Booth, President
Union of BC Municipalities*

"We're very pleased with this funding announcement. Nanaimo's Waterfront Walkway allows all members of our community, no matter their ability, to enjoy our beautiful waterfront. The goal is to have a continuous walkway from Departure Bay to the Nanaimo Estuary and, with today's announcement, we are able to proceed with two critical sections. On behalf of Council, I thank our staff for their efforts in obtaining this very important funding commitment."

*Mayor Bill McKay
City of Nanaimo*

Links

To see the full list of projects approved under this intake of the Federal Gas Tax Fund, visit <https://news.gov.bc.ca/16553>

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

To learn more about the Waterfront Walkway Implementation Plan visit: <https://www.nanaimo.ca/your-government/projects/projects-detail/waterfront-walkway-implementation-plan>

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