



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Vernon receives federal Gas Tax Fund contribution for the Long-Term Sanitary Sewer Utility Plan

On February 12, 2016, the Province of British Columbia announced the City of Vernon was the recipient of a Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund grant, in the amount of \$46,500, for the Long-Term Sanitary Sewer Utility Plan. The City of Vernon application was one of the 57 approved Gas Tax projects across B.C. made up of capital and capacity-building projects. Staff will begin a Request for Proposal process shortly for the delivery of the Long-Term Sanitary Sewer Utility Plan.

The plan is an asset management project that will complete a risk assessment of the sanitary sewer system. The information from the assessment will be used to create a prioritized list of replacements, which consider both condition and capacity.

After road infrastructure, the sanitary sewer system has the second largest replacement value, and an analysis of ways to strategically reduce renewal costs to match available long-term funding needs to be completed. The goal of this project is to reduce the annual renewal budget while optimizing the city's infrastructure investment to support the sustainable delivery of services to the community.

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. Each year, the Government of Canada provides over \$253 million in indexed funding for local government infrastructure projects across British Columbia through the federal Gas Tax Fund. The funding can be spent on any eligible project the community prioritizes across a broad range of eligible project categories, or it can be pooled with other communities for regional projects, banked for later priorities or used to pay for financed projects.