



Alternative Federal Budget 2004

FACT SHEET:

Rebuild Canada's crumbling infrastructure

This year, as in other years, the Alternative Federal Budget invests in the key Red Book promises for better health care delivery, adequate shelter, child care, aboriginal head start, and safe homes, safe streets. So people can rely on the basics. These are Liberal promises made 10 years ago and still unfulfilled – they're affordable and can be delivered in a fiscally prudent way.

The AFB will:

- Create a *Canadian Infrastructure Financing Authority (CIFA)*, a major fiscal innovation, which adopts the practice of incurring debt to finance infrastructure investment. CIFA allocates \$5 billion per year to reinvest in rebuilding our battered municipal infrastructure. This is a more efficient and publicly accountable investment alternative than the government's preferred public-private partnership route.
- Boost funding to increase the stock of affordable housing by \$1 billion in the first year and maintain this level of spending until 2008. This will support the development of a minimum of 25,000 units annually.
- Earmark a portion of the gas tax – originally brought in to help eliminate the deficit – to a green transportation fund, available to municipalities. This measure will make available \$684 million per year over the next three years.
- Make a commitment to Early Childhood Education and Care by ramping up investment to \$3.8 billion by the end of year three.
- Increase the federal transfer of cash for health care to the provinces up to 25% of estimated provincial health costs in three years. Health cash transfers to the provinces will increase to \$20.1 billion in 2004-05, \$20.9 billion in 2005-06 and \$23.1 billion in 2006-07. This level of funding begins to restore the federal role in providing a national, public system of health care.

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