



News Release: **UBCM Responds to Federal Budget 2009**

For Immediate Release:

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Wednesday January 28, 2009 (Victoria, British Columbia) – Union of British Columbia Municipalities President Robert Hobson has responded favorably to the federal budget delivered yesterday.

“Local governments in BC have been making the case that there is an infrastructure gap in our communities that requires greater involvement of senior levels of government,” said Mr. Hobson. “This budget begins to address our infrastructure needs and that is welcome news.”

There are a number of initiatives in Tuesday’s budget that will have a direct impact on local governments in B.C. including new and accelerated infrastructure programs, funding for recreation infrastructure and money for social housing. “I am also pleased to see funding for other initiatives that directly impact the communities that we live in,” said Mr. Hobson. “We welcome commitments made to First Nations, resource communities, and the sectors for tourism, arts and culture.”

Mr. Hobson also indicated that in the coming days and weeks UBCM would focus its efforts to ensure that the infrastructure funding flows through to local governments as soon as possible. “There are many details to be worked out that were not contained in today’s announcement and we will concentrate our advocacy efforts in these areas,” said Mr. Hobson “Items such as new and accelerated infrastructure funding and low-cost loans to local governments require follow up on our part.”