

# Building Canada and Community Sustainability

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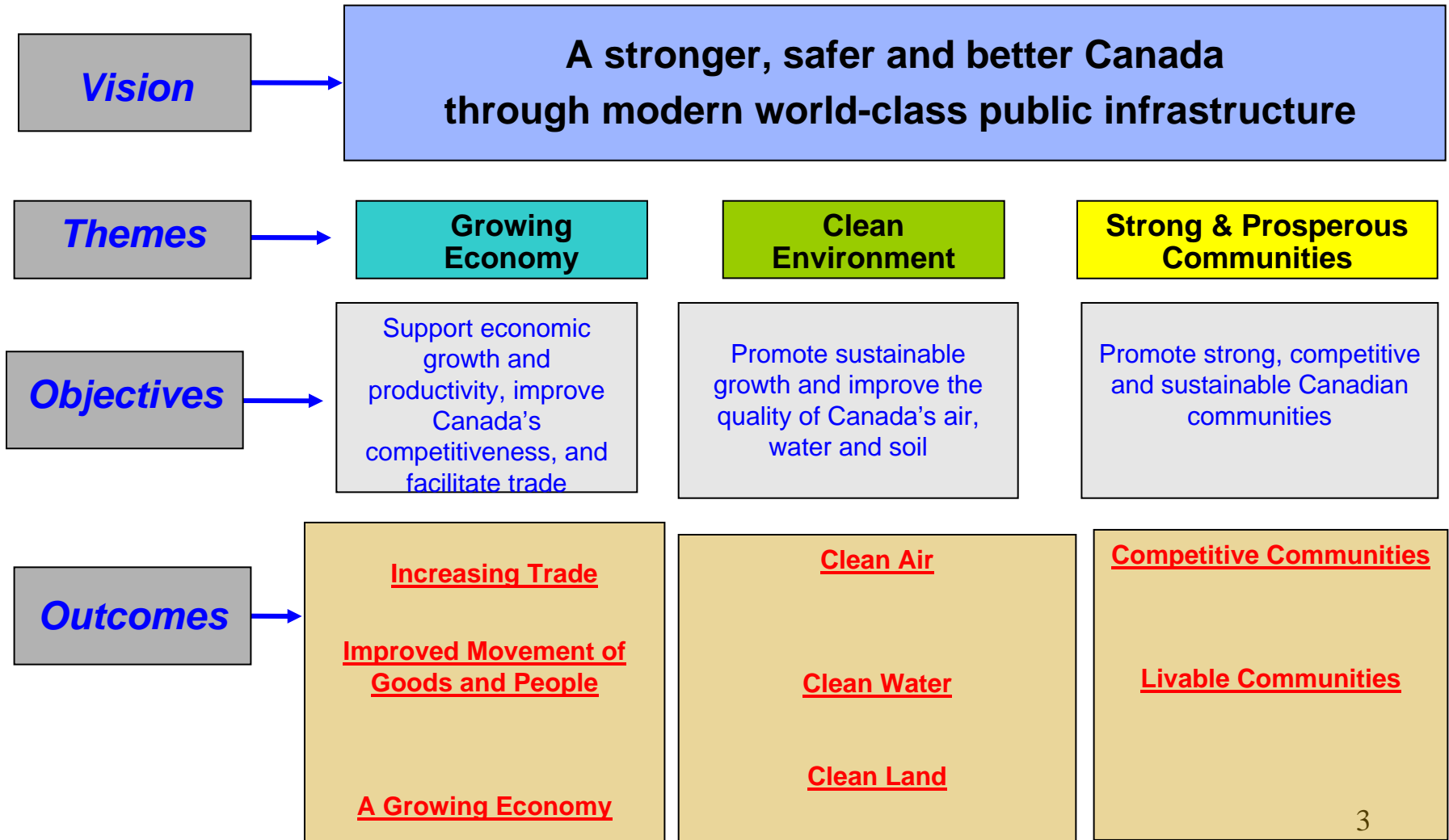
# Introduction

- Building Canada Plan (BCP)
  - “the largest infrastructure development program in half a century” Prime Minister Harper (June 2007 FCM conference)
  - Partnership with municipalities and P/T governments to build sustainable communities
  - Investments in infrastructure that supports stronger economy, cleaner environment and prosperous and secure communities are in line with Budget 2007 and the 2007 Speech from the Throne and are what Canadians want
- Integrated community planning (via an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan - ICSP) is a key enabling tool the federal government has set out to help achieve greater community sustainability under *Building Canada*

# Building Canada Plan (BCP) - Background

- Key messages from 2006 consultations
  - Long-term, predictable and increased funding
  - Flexibility
  - Streamlined programs and reporting
- Government of Canada response: the Building Canada Plan
  - Unprecedented long-term commitment of \$33B for infrastructure
  - The Building Canada Plan: suite of flexible programs and initiatives that balances regional needs with national priorities
  - Programs will support infrastructure in large and small communities across Canada

# BCP – Policy Framework



# Building Canada Plan Program Overview

Municipal Base  
\$17.6B/ 7 years  
Gas Tax \$11.8B/7 years  
GST Rebate: \$5.8B/7 years

Equal per jurisdiction funding  
\$2.275B/ 7 years

**Base Funding:  
\$20B/7 years**

**Program  
Funding:  
\$13.2B/7 years**

Gateways and Border  
Crossings Fund (\$2.1B);  
Asia-Pacific Gateway  
(\$1B)

Building Canada Fund  
\$8.8B

Public-Private  
Partnerships Fund  
\$1.25B

*Total infrastructure funding over period is \$37B, including \$4B of sunsetting expenditures from CSIF, BIF, MRIF, and Public Transit Capital Trust.  
The Plan incorporates previous new funding announced in Budget 2006.*

# Building Canada Fund Eligible Categories

## Eligible Investments

### Growing Economy

- Core National Highway System
- Shortline Rail/Shortsea Shipping
- Connectivity and Broadband
  - Tourism
- Regional/local airports

### Cleaner Environment

- Wastewater Treatment
  - Public Transit
  - Green Energy
- Solid Waste Management

### Strong Communities

- Clean Drinking Water
- Disaster Mitigation
- Brownfield Redevelopment
  - Culture
  - Sports
- Urban/Arterial Roads

# Building Canada Fund (BCF)

## Communities Component

Smaller, community-based projects

## Major Infrastructure Component

Larger, strategic projects of national/regional significance

- Competitive, application-based for communities under 100,000 people
- 2/3 of federal funding under MIC will go to five key national priorities: core national highways, water, wastewater, public transit and green energy
- Four of these five priorities are areas of municipal interest

# Gas Tax Fund (GTF)

- Gas Tax Funds:
  - Targeted to environmental/Green projects
  - Funding flows to municipalities through agreements with Provinces and Territories (2005-2014) and in some cases with municipal associations
  - No federal project approval
  - Municipalities report on use of funds and develop ICSPs
- Budget 2007 identified \$8B to extend the GTF from 2010 – 2014
- Extended funding will be distributed using the same allocation formula as the initial five years of GTF (2005-2010)
- A review of GTF is scheduled for 2009.

# Building Canada – a New Approach: More Than Just funding

- Government of Canada working with partners to promote knowledge, research, best practices, **long term planning** and capacity building:
  - up to 1% of funding under BCF in each jurisdiction can be used for cost-shared projects in these areas;
  - \$45 million national program to support research, planning and feasibility studies
- Capital infrastructure is therefore complemented by support for many planning and capacity building tools, including ICSPs
- GTF Agreements require municipalities to develop ICSPs, but their scope can extend beyond the GTF per se

# GTF Agreements & ICSPs

- Municipalities are the key – GTF recipient communities are to develop ICSPs during life of the agreement, and can use GTF funds to do so. Many municipalities have planning expertise & best practices to share.
- Provinces have legislative framework on planning
- GTF Agreement signatories (and municipal associations) develop ICSP Framework – may include toolkits (E.g. AUMA and Alberta government)
- Federal government
  - Besides providing GTF funding, the Government of Canada facilitates research, sharing of information and general support/advice during development of framework and guidelines

# What is an ICSP?

## General definition:

“ A long-term plan, developed in consultation with community members, that provides direction for the community to realize sustainability objectives it has for the environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions of its identity. ”

**Integrates the four dimensions of community sustainability:  
Cultural-Economic-Environmental-Social**

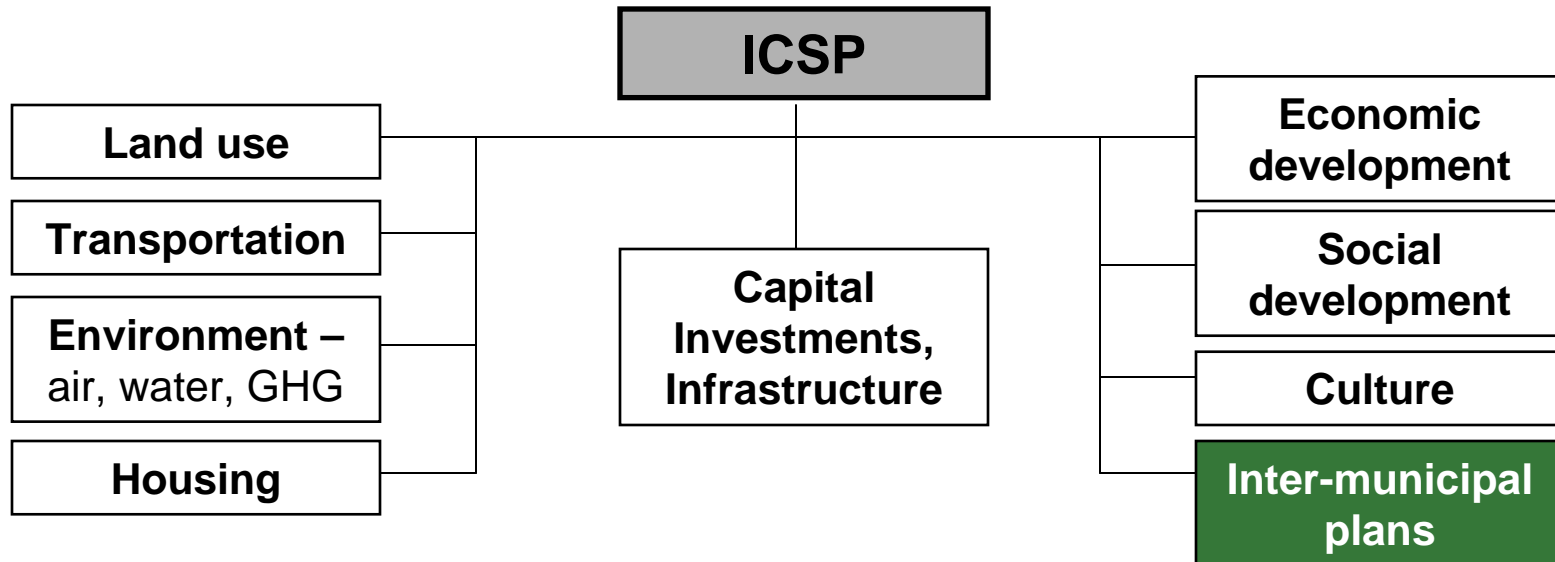
# ICSP Characteristics

## Flexibility – But Common Themes

- ICSP is an important visioning/outcomes tool:
  - Strategic framework that coordinates all decision-making and planning processes to work towards desired outcomes
  - Respects and builds on existing planning approaches
  - Enhanced community involvement in planning process
  - Inclusion of cultural dimension
  - Long-term outlook (20+ years)
  - Inter-municipal collaboration to plan regionally

# ICSP - A True “Umbrella Plan”

“Moves the planning bar forward” and  
links key sustainability issues



# Developing an ICSP

- Best Practices – learning from others
  - Presenters and other participants at FCM Conference
  - Other models (e.g. BC, Alberta, Nova Scotia)
- Federal Capacity Building Assistance
  - Gas Tax \$ can be used for ICSP development
  - Other Building Canada Fund links (e.g. funding under MIC & Communities Components)
  - Green Municipal Funds (FCM-administered)

# INFC Role

- Keep working with other federal departments and key external stakeholders to support and promote ICSP development and implementation (working with other levels of government and professional associations)
- Continue to serve as clearinghouse to support development of tools and sharing of information
- Monitoring and Reporting

## Other Community-related Federal Programs

- CMHC – Research & Case Studies
- Environment Canada – Eco-Action
- Health Canada/Public Health Agency of Canada – Safe Environments Program; Centre for Health Promotion
- HRSD – Community Approaches and Initiatives
- Canadian Heritage – Creative Community Network; Building Communities via Arts & Heritage program
- Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) - CCP
- NRCAN – Community Energy Planning
- Rural Secretariat (Agriculture Canada) – Rural Canadian Partnership Dialogue
- Transport Canada – UTSP

# Conclusion

- Sustainable development plays a key role in community vitality and must be integrated into other elements of short and long-term planning
- All levels of government can benefit from working together
- The federal government will continue to support sustainable community development – through BCF, the Gas Tax Fund, and other programs
- BUT municipalities – as those closest to the community are in the best position to determine what is best for them
- At the end of the day, we are all in the same boat – we all live in communities and want them to thrive

# For more information

Check our websites:

- [www.buildingcanada.gc.ca](http://www.buildingcanada.gc.ca)
- [www.infrastructure.gc.ca](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca)
- [www.infrastructure.gc.ca/research-recherche/index\\_e.shtml](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/research-recherche/index_e.shtml)