

There's no question that Halton needs infrastructure funding: Raitt

Projects like the Britannia expansion after last week's federal budget announcement that earmarks \$70 billion in infrastructure. Halton MP and Labour Minister Lisa Raitt was at Halton Regional Centre in Oakville yesterday to speak about the new Building Canada Plan and how it relates to the region.

Raitt told Regional staff, media and residents who were in attendance that since 2006 the Government of Canada has invested more than \$373 million in infrastructure funding for Halton.

Projects include the widening and realignment of Tremaine in Milton, which is currently underway, the construction of a new Regional water quality laboratory in Burlington, upgrades to the Oakville Water Purification Plant and rehabilitation of a boosting station in Burlington expected to be completed in 2014.

"Investment in Canada's public infrastructure creates jobs, economic growth and provide a high quality of life for families in every city and community across the country," she said. "With the new Building Cana-



Halton MP and Labour Minister Lisa Raitt dropped by Halton Regional Centre yesterday to talk about the new Building Canada Plan that invests in infrastructure across Canada. From left is Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, Halton Hills Regional Councillor Clark Somerville, Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr, Raitt, Oakville Regional Councillor Keith Bird, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and Milton Regional Councillor Tony Lambert. *Photo courtesy of Halton Region*

da Plan, our government is delivering the largest investment in job-creating infrastructure in Canadian history."

Part of the decade-long plan, which

will come into affect next year when the old plan expires, includes a community improvement fund that earmarks \$32.2 billion, indexing the gas tax fund and increasing GST

rebate for municipalities to build roads, public transit, recreational facilities and other community infrastructure across Canada.

Halton received more than \$84 mil-

lion through the gas tax fund between 2006 and 2014 to improve local infrastructure.

Carr said he believes the region has been successful at keeping up with infrastructure and attracting residents and businesses to contribute to the local economy.

"If you make it a good place to live, it's a great place to do business as well," he said.

However, with the growth that's planned for the region over the next few years, he said there are challenges that lie ahead to keep up with the growth.

Raitt told the *Champion* there's no question there's a need for infrastructure funding in Halton communities.

She said the Region has "a great reputation for bringing projects to fruition on budget and on time" and she believes it will be successful at accessing future infrastructure funding through the Building Canada Plan.

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