

H & K Communications

72 Elvaston Avenue
Nepean, Ontario
K2G 3X9

Phone: (613) 829-1800
Fax: (613) 829-2449
E-mail: hturkow@rogers.com

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PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN TRURO

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Phone (613) 829-1800 Fax (613) 829-6181 E-mail hturkow@home.com

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(APPLAUSE)

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister of Canada): Thank you very much, everybody. Really appreciate that welcome. Merci beaucoup, and thank you, Scott, for your kind introduction, and of course, congratulations on your recent by-election win. It's great to have you as part of our caucus in Ottawa advancing the interests of the good people of Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley. And as many of my colleagues can attest, particularly my cabinet colleagues, you've been hard at work from virtually the moment you were elected. In fact, even before Scott was sworn in, I understand he was on the phone to Fisheries and to the Infrastructure Minister, making sure they were among the first to know about your highest local priorities. That, ladies and gentlemen, is dedication. (APPLAUSE) Today's announcement indeed would not have come to fruition were it not for Scott's tireless advocacy. Another man who has worked very hard on today's event is the Honourable Peter MacKay. (APPLAUSE) Now, of course Peter needs absolutely no introduction around these parts, and he was here in Truro last month announcing our economic action plan investment in the renovation of the Colchester Legion Stadium, home of the Truro Bearcats, so congratulations for that, Peter. Great announcement. Greeting also to Darrel Dexter. Premier, thank you for being with us today. As well, I gather former Premier MacDonald is here? I haven't seen him. Where is he? There you are. Nice to see you, Rodney. (APPLAUSE) Thanks also, Premier, to your provincial colleagues who have joined us today, and also, greetings to your worships, to Mayor Mills and to Mayor Taylor, and finally, welcome as

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well to Senator Fred Dixon. Glad you could make it to be here today as well.
(APPLAUSE)

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, as you all know, a year ago the world economy was in virtual free-fall. In the face of the worst global recession in half a century, our government launched Canada's economic action plan, our response to protect our economy and Canadian jobs.

Notre plan d'action économique prévoit des investissements majeurs dans des projets d'infrastructure partout au pays, pour créer et protéger des emplois maintenant alors que nous en avons le plus besoin. En même temps, notre plan jette les fondations de la prospérité à plus long terme du Canada en bâtissant l'infrastructure moderne dont nous aurons besoin à l'avenir.

The economic action plan is making major investments in infrastructure projects across this country in order to create and sustain jobs now when they are most needed. At the same time, our plan lays the foundation for Canada's longer term prosperity by building the modern infrastructure we will need moving forward. Such a forward-looking proposal is the central Nova Scotia Civic Centre, to be constructed right here in Truro, off exit 13, next to the new hospital.

Aujourd'hui j'ai le plaisir d'annoncer que le gouvernement du Canada investit pour aider à faire du Centre civique de la Nouvelle-Écosse une réalité.

Today I'm pleased to announce that the government of Canada is investing to help make the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre a reality. (APPLAUSE) This modern facility will feature an NHL-sized ice surface, with seating for 3200 spectators to cheer on Truro's future draft picks.

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(LAUGHTER) I'm not naming any. It will also be home to an indoor aquatic centre, an exercise track, a fitness centre, and space for events like concerts, trade shows and community gatherings.

J'aimerais remercier nos partenaires provinciaux, municipaux et communautaires pour leur leadership et leurs contributions à cet important projet. Cette collaboration témoigne de ce qui peut être accompli quand nous travaillons ensemble.

I would like to thank our provincial, municipal and community partners for their leadership and their contributions to this important project. I know in particular that the steering committee has been working tirelessly to ignite the spirit and move this project forward for Truro and the region. This collaboration is a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together. Ladies and gentlemen, today's announcement is one of many strategic investments that our government is making to build stronger and healthier communities in Nova Scotia and across the country.

L'économie demeure la priorité première de notre gouvernement, et cela ne changera pas tant que la récession mondiale ne sera vraiment chose du passé.

The economy continues to be our government's number one priority, and that will not change until the global recession is truly behind us. But we are starting to see signs of improvement in Canada's economy. The recovery remains fragile. Far too many Canadians are still out of work. Too many families are experiencing hardship, and it is too soon to let down our guard. But as long as we stay the course and fully implement our economic action plan and then take disciplined, sustained action to reduce the deficit when the recession ends, Canada's long-term economic prospects will

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remain among the best in the world. Once again, I want to thank all of you for joining us today. Merci beaucoup. (APPLAUSE)

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