



## *National Trails Coalition Applauds Government of Canada Investment in Trails Infrastructure*

*Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Jan 27, 2009*

Leaders of the National Trails Coalition (NTC) are pleased that the Government of Canada is injecting \$25 million into the construction of trail infrastructure across the nation. New trail infrastructure provides a safe venue for a variety of trail users and creates a local economic development opportunity, particularly in rural and northern Canada.

"The funds announced in today's Budget will allow us to undertake a nation-wide trail building program that will make trail use safer, stimulate tourism and create jobs," said National Trails Coalition Chairman and Canadian Trails Federation President, Terry Norman. "This is a major boost to all forms of trail-based tourism and recreational activities."

The National Trails Coalition was formed in 2007 to bring the broad spectrum of trail-based activities together in a collaborative manner to build, maintain and promote trails and trail use across Canada.

One of the founding principles of the Coalition is building new partnerships between trail disciplines; fostering more multiple-use trail development; and providing a trail-based platform on which private enterprise and volunteer groups alike can generate economic activity.

"The Off Highway Vehicle sector welcomes the partnership offered by the Minister of Finance in his Budget," said Bob Ramsay, President of the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV). "The \$25 million investment will significantly increase the level of trail building in the coming year and it will create a heightened level of cooperation among trail user groups as they rally behind a common purpose."

Dennis Burns, Executive Director of the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO), said, "This is tremendous news for the trails community across Canada, particularly in rural and northern areas where trail-based activities play such an important role in the local economy. We salute the government's recognition that trails are not only important for peoples' health and wellbeing but they are also good business."

The National Trails Coalition was formed by the Canadian Trails Federation, the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors' Council and the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations. Membership in these national level organizations is drawn from provincial and territorial organizations or from the private sector through the contributions of manufacturers and distributors of trail-related vehicles, products and services. Virtually all forms of trail-based activity are represented under the Coalition banner.



## Update on the Trail Building Grant Program

Over the last two years, the Saskatchewan Trails Association (STA) has been pleased to provide a Trail Building Grant to trail and recreational organizations across the province.

Through the grant program, which has been funded by the provincial government, over 30 STA members have received \$3,500 each to enhance existing trails and to develop new trails.

The Trail Building Grant was scheduled to be offered again in March 2009. However, the program is tentatively on hold, as the existing funds have been depleted. Funding will likely not be available for the upcoming March deadline.

STA is currently working with the provincial government to develop a new program to assist in trail development. Updates about the development of this program will be forthcoming.

If you would like further information about trail funding or other STA initiatives, please contact us. Thank you for your ongoing support and your efforts to develop and maintain trails in our province.



## Send Us Your Trail Stories

We want to share your tales from the trails. Any member of the Saskatchewan Trails Association wishing to submit news items, stories, or upcoming events is welcome to send information to be printed in the STA newsletter.

Please send submissions by email to Pat Rediger at [prediger@sasktrails.ca](mailto:prediger@sasktrails.ca).