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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

### **Communities receive funding infusion from Province**

VICTORIA – The Province is paying out \$63.8 million to local governments, helping to create jobs, stimulate local economies and keep families safe.

In the first Strategic Community Investment Fund (SCIF) instalment for 2011, communities across B.C. are receiving \$30 million in Small Community and Regional District Grants to support investments in local government services. The Province is also providing \$30 million in net traffic fine revenues to eligible municipalities.

Local governments will be reimbursed for the carbon taxes they paid in 2010. This amounts to \$3.8 million and reflects the Province's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020 through partnerships with local government. Funding is provided through the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program.

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Ida Chong, Minister of Community Sport and Cultural Development –**

"Funding decisions at the community level are best made right where the action is, in the community. Both the Strategic Community Investment Fund and the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program have proven to be very successful. Through partnering and leveraging we are further ahead collectively as a province, and I'm very pleased to see not only the dedication to support vital public safety initiatives but also local commitment towards environmental stewardship demonstrated by communities."

#### **Shirley Bond, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General –**

"Families want to feel safe and secure in their communities, and returning traffic fine revenue allows local governments to enhance policing services, prevent crime and focus on public safety initiatives. In fact we have 1,100 more police officers than we had five years ago and since the commitment to return 100 per cent of net traffic fine revenues was made, more than \$402 million has been provided to communities across the province."

## **Terry Lake, Minister of Environment –**

“We’ve seen incredible leadership on climate action in B.C. communities where local leaders are setting a positive tone for all residents. Like the provincial government, local governments are leading by example and becoming more energy- and fuel-efficient by offering cleaner transportation options and by building greener infrastructure. The Climate Action Revenue Incentive Grants help communities continue to make that important shift to become carbon neutral communities.”

### **Quick Facts:**

- The Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing program assists municipalities that directly pay police enforcement costs. The grants come from ticket fines and court-imposed fines on violation tickets, and the amount of money a municipality receives is based on its contribution to total municipal policing costs.
- The Small Community and Regional District Grants are unconditional grants to local governments, to assist them to provide basic services. Grant amounts are based on a formula that factors in a base amount, population and assessment values. These grants generally apply to municipalities with populations up to 19,000.
- Sept. 24, 2008, the Province announced the [Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008OTP0235-001451.htm): [http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2008OTP0235-001451.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008OTP0235-001451.htm) to offset the carbon tax for local governments that have signed the B.C. Climate Action Charter. To be eligible for the program, communities are required to report annually on the steps they are taking – and progress they have made – to become carbon-neutral by 2012.
- Communities that have signed the Climate Action Charter receive a conditional grant equal to 100 per cent of their carbon tax costs to support their climate change efforts.

### **Learn more:**

B.C. local governments: <http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/>

Climate Action Charter: <http://www.livesmartbc.ca/community/charter.html>

Local governments receiving funds through Small Community and Regional District Grants and traffic fine revenues:

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/downloads/Backgrounder1.pdf>

Local governments receiving funds through the Climate Action Revenue Incentive program:

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/downloads/BackgrounderClimateAction.pdf>

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