
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Transportation

B.C. WINS RECOGNITION FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

VICTORIA – Partnerships BC won two awards last night at the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships (CCPPP) 2005 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence, reaffirming British Columbia’s position as a national leader in implementing successful public private partnerships.

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project won the CCPPP Gold Award and the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre project won the Award of Merit – both in the Project Financing category. It was the second award for the Abbotsford Hospital project, which was honoured in March 2005 as Project Finance magazine’s North American Partnership of the Year. Partnerships BC also captured the 2004 CCPPP Project Financing award for the now-completed Sierra Yoyo Desan Resource Road in northeastern B.C.

In accepting the award, Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon said, “The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project is a great example of bringing the expertise of the public and private sector together to deliver benefits to motorists. The contract between the Ministry of Transportation and the contractor (S2S Transportation Group) will result in significant additional highway improvements to meet the safety, reliability and capacity objectives of the project, and is expected to be completed in 2009.”

“The Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre Project brings cost-savings of about \$39 million over the life of the contract, and those savings will go directly to patient care,” said Health Minister George Abbott. Further, the B.C. Auditor General reviewed the value-for-money report for this project and concluded that it fairly represents the results to date of the process and project.

“These awards are very positive recognition at a national level,” said Finance Minister Carole Taylor. “We were already very pleased at how well these projects have delivered innovation and lowered risks and costs to government, and it is even more rewarding when they are recognized as national examples of how partnership projects can be done – and done well.”

Minister Taylor’s predecessor Gary Collins was also honoured at the Toronto conference, accepting the 2005 Champion Award. Collins was praised for initiating the current successful projects (and many others) and especially for creating Partnerships BC, an independent, provincial agency responsible for implementing public private partnerships, formulating best practices and developing a centre of expertise.

“Partnerships can bring significant value to help meet the growing demand for roads, bridges, highways, healthcare facilities and other public infrastructure,” said Partnerships BC president and CEO Larry Blain. “Public private partnerships are all about transferring risks such as construction budget and schedule to the private sector to get the most benefits from project innovation. B.C. is demonstrating that we can build and maintain infrastructure in record time and deliver value for money.”

The Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships is a national non-partisan, non-profit organization founded in 1993 to conduct research, publish findings and to promote discussion of the benefits and risks of public private partnerships, in Canada and abroad. It is entirely funded by members who are divided almost equally between the public and private sectors. For more information, visit www.pppcouncil.ca.

B.C. currently has more than \$3.5 billion in approved public private partnerships under construction, which includes \$2 billion in private equity. For more information on any of these projects, visit Partnerships BC at www.partnershipsbc.ca.

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