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# *News Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday October 15, 2009**

## **Government of Canada Invests in the Comox Valley Sports Centre**

**COURTENAY, BC** – John Duncan, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Island North, on behalf of the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announced today federal funding to strengthen economic opportunities in the Comox Valley. Funding for this investment is being provided under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) program, a major job creating investment from Canada's Economic Action Plan.

“Our Government's investment in the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program is creating jobs for Canadians, while encouraging greater participation in physical education and the use of recreational facilities,” said Duncan. “Investing in the Comox Valley Sports Centre will help the government stimulate the economy, enhance services and the lives of local families, and contribute to the health and quality of life of all Canadians.”

The revitalization of the Comox Valley Sports Centre will improve the functionality and accessibility of the pool and Arena #1, as well as upgrade essential mechanical infrastructure. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$1,448,000, with \$400,000 coming from the Government of Canada's RIInC program, \$1,030,000 from the Comox Valley Regional District and \$5,000 from the World U-17 Hockey Challenge Legacy.

“This grant will allow us to begin much needed renovations and upgrades to our pool area, change rooms, and seating area,” said Fred Bates, Chair of the Comox Valley Regional District Board of Directors. “In particular, the funding will provide for accessibility improvements such as a wheelchair accessible sauna, the addition of a toilet area with grab bars and adding seats for the disabled to each shower room. The changes will further enhance the sports centres ability to be a welcome place for everyone in our community.”

“As Chair of the Comox Valley Sport Commission, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Federal Government for their continued support,” said Comox Mayor Paul Ives. “The upgrades planned throughout the facility will help us turn the CVRD sports centre from a good facility into a great facility, accessible to everyone.”

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The design phase will be undertaken right away and construction should begin as early as April, 2010, coinciding with the end of the figure skating and hockey seasons. Upgrades will include:

- renovations of the change rooms, seating and time keepers booth in Arena #1,
- renovations of the pool area and change rooms to make the amenities fully wheelchair accessible, and
- upgrades to the mechanical infrastructure such as air conditioning, heaters, exhaust fans and fire protection fixtures.

The Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program will invest \$500 million in recreational facilities across Canada over a two-year period. It will provide a temporary economic stimulus that will help reduce the impacts of the global recession while renewing, upgrading and expanding recreational infrastructure in Canadian communities. A total of almost \$163 million in RInC funding will be invested across the four western provinces.

RInC is part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada's multi-faceted stimulus plan that will ensure a quick recovery from the current economic downturn. Western Economic Diversification Canada is delivering the initiative in the four western provinces.

For information on Canada's Economic Action Plan, please visit [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).

**For additional information, contact:**

Laura Smith  
Legislative Assistant  
DuncaJ0@parl.gc.ca  
(613) 992-2503