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# *News Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 26, 2010**

## **Government of Canada Invests in Comox Valley Infrastructure**

**Courtenay, British Columbia** – 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 and make local improvements to trails in the Huband Road area. Funding for this investment is being provided under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program, a major job creating investment from Canada's Economic Action Plan.

"This funding will provide a safer, more reliable trail system for the residents and school children of the Huband Road area," said Duncan. "Not only will this provide employment, it will also encourage active and healthy lifestyles and reduce local road traffic."

The RInC program will provide \$36,220 of the \$73,000 project, with the remainder provided by the Comox Valley Regional District. These funds will be used to construct 155 metres of elevated boardwalk to provide a year round walking surface, as well as allow continued normal water drainage patterns in the area.

"The community and residents in the Huband Road area and School District 71 had approached the regional district and had outlined their support for an improved trail corridor," said Greg Phelps, Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) chair. "The location and surface water pattern of this area make the trail design and construction a costly venture, so I'm very happy that we are able to leverage our dollars with the grant funding and can get on with the job."

"As CVRD director for this area I am very pleased that this grant will allow us to provide an improved and formalized trail that offers year-round pedestrian access to Huband elementary school," said Jim Gillis, CVRD director for Lazo North (Area B). "Use of this trail will help get kids to do the healthy thing – walk or ride their bikes to school. This federal funding makes it all possible."

In addition to construction of the boardwalk, the work will include the replacement of an old log bridge with a new five meter free-span bridge, the resurfacing of an additional 60 metres

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of trail with gravel and the installation of a culvert. This will allow year-round use of a popular trail that is currently prone to flooding during precipitation events.

The Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) 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.

RIInC 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  
Office of John Duncan  
Telephone: (250) 338-9381  
[Duncaj0@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Duncaj0@parl.gc.ca)