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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

Key Element In Strategy To Further Boost Jobs And Economic Renewal

TIMMINS – The McGuinty government is investing in 162 projects across Ontario to build, repair, renovate and upgrade community agencies that provide French-language programs and services to people in need, Minister of Community and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs Madeleine Meilleur announced today.

“Our government believes that people in need deserve all the help we can give them,” said Meilleur. “Investing in these projects is just one of the ways our government is continuing to build stronger agencies that offer French-language services in communities across Ontario.”

Infrastructure projects totaling more than \$2.1 million will help these organizations better meet the unique needs of Ontario’s francophone population. The funding will support improvements to programs for people with a developmental disability, and improvements to the accessibility, safety and security of buildings.

“Our government is working hard to make sure the best possible services for people with developmental disabilities are available in our communities,” said Timiskaming – Cochrane MPP David Ramsay. “Strengthening our community agencies will have a positive impact on the lives of people in Northern Ontario and throughout the province.”

“The government continues to show that it is serious about improving services and supports for people who have a developmental disability,” said Johanne Rondeau, Executive Director, Community Living Timmins Intégration Communautaire. “This investment will make a meaningful difference in the francophone community for people who have a developmental disability and those who support them.”

Funding for these initiatives comes from the government's \$190 million economic stimulus package. Announced in the 2006 Fall Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, the stimulus package aims to boost jobs and growth through a focus on four key areas:

- Focused training and job services to help job-threatened and laid-off workers find new jobs
- Fast-tracking infrastructure projects to generate immediate economic activity and job creation
- Encouraging Ontario tourism to boost economic activity and tourism-related jobs
- Strengthening interprovincial trade to match industrial needs in Alberta with Ontario's industrial capacity.

"While the economy remains fundamentally strong, it is important to remember that slower growth has a real impact on people and communities," said Finance Minister Greg Sorbara. "Each of the four areas we are focusing on represents the building blocks of a sound economic foundation. Investing in these areas now means a more prosperous and competitive future for Ontario."

"Our government is committed to investing in our social services agencies which help so many people in need," said Meilleur. "This is a key investment in strong, economically sound francophone communities."

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