

Infrastructure

Mr. Speaker, in addition to our investments in industry development, our commitment to advancing infrastructure throughout the province will help stimulate economic activity and job creation while providing access to services in modern facilities.

Last year, our government launched a five year plan for new and existing schools, healthcare facilities, post-secondary institutions, roads and bridges, justice facilities, affordable housing and municipal infrastructure. This year, we will continue to build on this momentum and action a plan that includes a total investment of \$619.7 million. The Five Year Infrastructure Plan will generate an average of \$540 million in economic activity and 5,300 person years of employment per year.

Education

Within the K-12 system this year, we are investing,

- \$1.4 million to plan for a new Francophone school and to plan to replace Bay d'Espoir Academy;
- \$900,000 for a new school bus depot in Corner Brook;
- \$4.3 million to complete an extension for Mobile Central High School.
- \$11.4 million to start construction of an intermediate school in Paradise and the replacement of Coley's Point Primary in Bay Roberts; and,
- \$15.5 million for repairs and maintenance of existing schools.

For the post-secondary education system, \$36.3 million has also been allocated for Memorial University's new science building and Animal Resource Centre, as well as the re-development of its Battery Facility. Construction of the College of the North Atlantic's Heavy Equipment Centre in Stephenville and upgrades to the college's Centre for Energy and Thermal Systems will continue with an investment of \$15 million.

Health Care

Budget 2018 includes investments which ensure health care infrastructure can meet the demands of residents. Including the \$6.1 million for the value-for-money analysis to replace the Waterford Hospital that I have already mentioned, we will also invest:

- \$8 million for a new regional west coast hospital in Corner Brook;
- \$6.25 million for the development of the Green Bay Health Centre in Springdale;