
News Release

Construction Begins on Clarence-Rockland Arena, Event and Training Centre

Clarence-Rockland, Ontario, June 17, 2010 – Pierre Lemieux, Member of Parliament for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Ontario Minister of Community and Social Services and Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier, Jean-Marc Lalonde, Member of Provincial Parliament for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, along with Richard Lalonde, Mayor of Clarence-Rockland, today celebrated the start of construction on the new Arena, Event and Training Centre in Clarence-Rockland.

“Our Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is proud to support this important Centre, which will offer tremendous opportunities to the youth in and around Clarence-Rockland, and benefit the local economy,” said MP Lemieux. “Our Government is delivering on our commitment to support infrastructure investments that help create jobs, stimulate the economy and build sustainable communities.”

“This project will create a state-of-the art training facility that will introduce hundreds of young athletes to one of Canada's favourite pastimes, and help hundreds more take their skills to the next level,” said MPP Lalonde. “As part of the McGuinty government’s Open Ontario Plan we are making unprecedented investments in infrastructure projects like this facility that will not only benefit Ontarians for years to come, but will contribute to creating jobs and stimulating the economy right here in our community.”

“With the Arena, Event and Training Centre, the City of Clarence-Rockland is able to demonstrate, once more, that its economy is booming and is not ready to slow down. We are also very proud to have the support of the federal and provincial governments for this project,” said Mayor Lalonde.

The Governments of Canada and Ontario have each committed \$6.8 million towards this project, with the City of Clarence-Rockland providing the remainder of the funding. The total estimated cost is \$21 million. The Government of Canada’s commitment comes from the Building Canada Fund -- Major Infrastructure Component. The Government of Ontario announced matching funds in the 2009 Budget.

Once completed, the Arena, Event and Training Centre will have two NHL-size ice surfaces, and include a soccer pitch and an indoor walking track. This new facility will also allow for the creation of an advanced hockey program for secondary-school level hockey players, to be run by

the Canadian International Hockey Academy, while still reserving a proportion of operational hours for public and community use.

Canada's Economic Action Plan has accelerated and expanded the existing Building Canada infrastructure plan of \$33 billion, and added almost \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding.

As part of the Open Ontario Plan, the McGuinty government's infrastructure investments are creating 300,000 jobs in communities across Ontario and will build future prosperity by modernizing and expanding the province's infrastructure.

"As we experienced in the Olympics earlier this year, hockey is Canada's game and we are champions!" said Mr. Lemieux. "The City of Clarence Rockland, working hand in hand with the Canadian International Hockey Academy, will be training our future hockey athletes right here. It is an ambitious project, but it is one that will succeed."