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# Background

## THE ATLANTIC GATEWAY

The Atlantic Gateway is a modern competitive and integrated air, rail, marine and road freight transportation network. It provides direct and reliable, access to and from the economic heartland of North America. The Atlantic Gateway offers connection to, and seamless integration with, Canada's other gateways, and transportation systems that reach across North America.

Evolving supply chains and shifting international trade patterns point towards a strong future role for Canada's Atlantic Gateway. For example, rising container trade and larger vessels are driving demand for deepwater ports and increasing the use of the Suez route by Asian exporters to reach North America. In addition, growing numbers of major shippers are considering North America's east coast to balance logistical flows.

Much has been accomplished and governments continue to work together to advance Atlantic Gateway priority areas for action. As mandated by the federal/provincial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Atlantic Gateway Strategy will be released by Fall 2009, and will serve as the foundation for partners' ongoing efforts to keep this vital trade and transportation system at the forefront of existing and emerging global commerce opportunities.

The following infrastructure projects have been identified as priorities for funding, in support of the longer-term objectives of the Atlantic Gateway, including:

- Burnside Connector Phase 1 – \$35 million (up to \$17.5 million federal) highway project connecting Highway 102 and Highway 107 and a major industrial park and transshipment facility;
- Port of Halifax South Terminal Expansion – \$35 million (up to \$17.5 million federal) to accommodate the next generation of container ships;
- Port of Halifax, Richmond Terminals Multipurpose Gateway Extension – \$73 million (up to \$36.5 million federal) to upgrade and expand value-added cargo handling services;
- Truro High Speed Interchange – \$9 million (up to \$4.5 million federal) to upgrade the interchange ramps at a vital highway junction through which high volumes of Nova Scotian trade moves;
- Highway Upgrades on Route 344 – \$15 million (up to \$7.5 million federal) to support development and operation of the proposed Melford Container Terminal; and
- Business Development and Marketing Initiatives – \$5 million (up to \$2.5 million federal) to market Atlantic Gateway ports and other facilities.

Federal financial support for these projects is conditional on their meeting all applicable federal eligibility requirements, including the completion of a full federal due diligence review, successful completion of any environmental assessments required under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, and signature of necessary contribution agreements for the projects.

For further information on the Atlantic Gateway, the MOU and the National Policy Framework, visit [www.atlanticgateway.gc.ca](http://www.atlanticgateway.gc.ca).

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