

Moving Canadians towards active & efficient transportation:

Invest now in Canada's future.

Invest now in a national safe routes to school program and other community action programs that get Canadians back on their feet and into healthy, environmentally sustainable transportation.

• COST SAVINGS

Engaging citizens in walking, cycling, busing and carpooling activities is the most cost effective way of reducing traffic congestion, road and parking facility costs.
See: www.vtptf.org

• ACTIVE LIVING

Active transportation can reduce the effects of sedentary living, including childhood obesity, Type 2 diabetes and risk factors for various other chronic illnesses.
See: www.activehealthykids.ca

• HEALTHY LUNGS

Reducing vehicle emissions can improve air quality. Health Canada attributes 5,900 deaths a year to air pollution.
See: www.hc-sc.gc.ca

• HAPPINESS & WELLBEING

"Children's view of transportation (when walking to school) reminds us that transportation is not only about 'moving people and goods'. It is about wonder, discovery, joy and happiness."
(O'Brien, 2005)

• CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

Almost half of the greenhouse gases produced by individuals come from vehicle use. Active and efficient modes of transportation can reduce personal ghg emissions. See: www.climatechange.gc.ca

THE PROBLEM

Canadians are becoming more car-dependent, and we are turning away from walking, cycling and public transportation. Public health impacts include a rising epidemic of childhood obesity and asthma. Environmental impacts include poor air quality and greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change.

THE 2% SOLUTION

Community-based action programs, including Active & Safe Routes to School, are a proven successful means of engaging citizens in reducing automobile trips. These practical behaviour change programs are a needed complement to investments in sustainable transportation infrastructure. They increase active, healthy transportation like walking and cycling. They increase transit ridership. They reduce emissions and energy use, helping Canadians to meet their One Tonne Challenge. They save money and enable more efficient use of transportation infrastructure.



ACTION:

ALLOCATE A 2% SHARE OF THE \$800 MILLION NEW FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION TO COMMUNITY-BASED PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS THROUGH A PLANNED, MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT.

Support community-based sustainable transportation programs that work:

- **At school** - walking school bus, walk to school day, school travel planning, curriculum support, bike safety workshops
- **At the workplace** - commuter challenge, public transit incentives, tele-work support, car-pooling initiatives
- **In the community** - active living programs, safe route mapping and signage, pedometer challenges, TDM programs
- **In our daily decisions** - efficient vehicle purchase programs, vehicle maintenance & driving strategies, anti-idling

Canadian non-profits are leaders in community-based sustainable transportation programming. Our initiatives, delivered in communities across Canada, achieve great results by responding to the needs of specific communities while mobilizing partnerships with municipalities, police, schools, public health departments, and service clubs.

The United States, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are investing in initiatives to boost sustainable transportation. In August 2005 the United States announced a \$615M fund for Safe Routes to School programs, part of SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) Act.

Canada also needs federal support for community-based sustainable transportation programming so that our citizens can walk, bike, bus and carpool towards a healthy future.

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