

April 21, 2009

National Trails Coalition (NTC) Update

The NTC continues to develop processes to work with the federal government in getting dollars to trail groups across country. Since the announcement by Prime Minister Harper in February 2009, a number of processes have been developed to assist the government and the NTC in servicing the economic stimulus funds.

History

This group first came together in 2007 and all national trail groups were invited to participate. The leadership group is made up of the Canadian Trails Federation (representing non-motorized trail interests), the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (representing snowmobiling), and the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (representing off-road vehicle manufacturers).

Federal Authority

General approval was provided through the budget. All monies are to be spent in the current budget year. The Ministry providing oversight is the Ministry of Sport and Recreation, in partnership with the Ministry of Infrastructure.

Initial Grant

The grant developed by the NTC and accepted by the federal government was written in the interest of all trails. The four desired outcomes are economic stimulus, job creation, safe and shared use trail development and maintenance.

Memorandum of Understanding

The National Trails Coalition partners have developed a Memorandum of Understanding amongst the three members, detailing methods of communication, cooperation and collaboration. The NTC has a primary requirement of grant applicants, recipients of funds must be a member in good standing of one of the three organizations forming the NTC Executive. As virtually all of the likely recipients are members of members of the three, we

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believe we will be able to provide better trail to all trail groups coast to coast, through this federal initiative.

Project Approval Process

Through the MOU the NTC defines a review process for project - acceptance, prioritization and approval. Each province or region as defined by the MOUs will create a review committee, made up of the provincial snowmobile, ORV and non-motorized trail community representatives. Recommended projects from the province or regional level will then move to the NTC Executive for approval and fund allocation.

Status

The project assessment process is being reviewed and approved by the Federal government. The Federal Government has the incorporation, management and oversight documents including the processes as submitted from NTC Executive. Next step - Treasury Board for funding.

Local or regional projects seeking matching funds for existing projects need to meet all requirements and be shovel ready. All funds must be spent in the 09-10 fiscal year.

Target funding allocation will be 1/3 for each member organization in good standing of the NTC representing snowmobile, ORV and non-motorized trails.

If you have a project that is already approved, that has 50% matching funds (approved for use by other government guideline or criteria for NTC project), creates jobs, can demonstrate shared use, provides an economic stimulus, promotes safety, please get the project documentation ready as the application form is expected to be available soon.

Issue	Status
Government approval	√
NTC is the lead organization	√
Lead Minister assigned	√

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NTC MOU	√
Executive Process Defined	√
Draft Project Application created	√
Draft Implementation Plan Developed	√
Draft Funding Allocation by Province	√
Draft Project Assessment created	√
Draft Project Assessment Guidelines created	√
Provincial Matching Money declared for trails: Quebec, Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, PEI	√
Other Provincial funding Programs may be used to match funds: Ontario, Manitoba	√
Unknown: British Columbia, Territories	√
Communication to Communities: Press Release Government Press Release NTC Communique NTC (1) Communique NTC (2) NTC Website Developed and posted	√ √ √ √ √
Environmental Scan Projects submitted by community upon announcement Projects currently in community	√ √

For more information see: www.ntc-canada.ca

For application and other approvals please track: www.ntc-canada.ca

All available and approved for use documents will be shared nationally at the same time through the NTC website.

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