

## **FIRST NATIONS CONNECTIONS BACKGROUNDER**

### **Town of Fort Qu'Appelle and File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council project**

The Province is investing about \$1.3 million to pave Sioux Avenue in Fort Qu'Appelle from Highway 10 to the All Nations Healing Hospital. Construction is managed by the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle, while the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council was instrumental in building the hospital. Construction began in late August and is expected to be completed in October. This improved road benefits residents of the town, local First Nations and region because it improves access to a health care facility available to everyone.

### **Big River First Nation and Rural Municipality of Canwood project**

The Province is investing about \$3.9 million to pave 11.2 km of Cyr Road from Highway 55 to the Big River First Nation near Debden. The Rural Municipality of Canwood is managing the project. Construction began in August with grading expected to be completed this fall. The paving of the road is expected to be completed next year. This upgraded road will mean better access to services and employment opportunities for residents of both the First Nation and rural municipality.

### **Witchehan Lake First Nation and Rural Municipality of Spiritwood project**

The province is investing about \$3.6 million to pave 6.85 km of a gravel road linking Highway 24 to the Witchehan Lake First Nation north of Spiritwood. The Rural Municipality of Spiritwood is managing the project. Construction is expected to begin next year due to wet conditions during the 2007 construction season. This improved link will mean better access to health care and other services in Spiritwood for the Witchehan community, which is experiencing rapid growth.

### **Highway 55, Red Earth and Shoal Lake First Nations project**

The Province is investing \$19.2 million to upgrade the Highway 55 corridor east of Nipawin in which 29.3 km of Highway 55 will be paved by starting where the road turns to gravel east of Carrot River to the Shoal Lake First Nation turnoff. In addition, the two First Nation access roads that link to Highway 55 will also be upgraded and paved. They include the 14.1 km gravel road to the Red Earth First Nation and the 2.9 km gravel road to the Shoal Lake First Nation. Grading began earlier this summer on Highway 55. The project is planned to be finished by the fall of 2008. These upgraded roads will benefit these Aboriginal communities by improving access to services in Nipawin and other points west like Prince Albert.

### **Mistawasis First Nation and Rural Municipality of Canwood project**

The Province is investing an estimated \$4.9 million to pave 12.3 of a gravel road from Highway 3 to the Mistawasis First Nation west of Prince Albert. The Rural Municipality of Canwood will manage the project. The design and engineering phase of this project will be completed in 2007, while onsite construction is expected to take place in 2008. This road will improve access to services and employment opportunities for residents of the Mistawasis First Nation.

### **Onion Lake Cree Nation and Rural Municipality of Frenchman Butte project**

The Province is investing an estimated \$1.5 million to upgrade and pave 3.6-km of a gravel road that links the Onion Lake Cree Nation to Highway 17. The Onion Lake Cree Nation will manage this latest project, while a contractor will do the work. The partners will also seek training and employment opportunities for First Nations people during construction. Design work will take place this year with construction expected to start in 2008. This improved link will mean a safer, more efficient transportation corridor for local residents.