
News Release Communiqué

For immediate release

Governments Invest in Revitalization of Former Sydney Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens Site

Sydney, Nova Scotia, October 28, 2012 — The Government of Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia have awarded up to \$17 million in contracts to construct a park and green space on the remediated Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

The successful bidders include Municipal Ready Mix Limited based in Sydney and Denko Mi'Kmaq Enterprises Limited based in Eskasoni.

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Labour, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada and Status of Women, said awarding the contracts is one of the final major milestones for Canada's largest industrial remediation projects and will create a proud legacy of honouring the community's past, while creating developments that will be enjoyed by future generations.

“Our Government remains focused on what matters to Canadians – jobs, growth and long-term prosperity,” said Minister Raitt. “In addition to the environmental and health benefits of remediating this site, the final land use construction will continue to build on the project's economic benefits locally and build a foundation for future economic growth in Cape Breton.”

The project also continues to provide meaningful employment and training opportunities for local First Nations communities, African Nova Scotians and women in under-represented occupations, such as trades and technology.

“These contracts will generate more economic opportunities for businesses in the Sydney area and more good jobs,” said Deputy Premier Frank Corbett. “The province is proud to support this work to transform these sites into a place where we want to be, where we recognize the history of our people and our land, and sow the seeds of change for future generations.”

The community liaison committee for the Sydney Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens remediation had an important role in developing the plan for the future use of the land.

“It is extremely gratifying to see the park area and green space taking shape on the former steel plant property,” said Alastair MacLeod, committee chair. “With green grass already covering much of the site, the final transformation is at hand, and the revitalized land will be returned to the people of Sydney.”

Construction on the final land use elements began this month and is scheduled for completion in August 2013. The clean-up project remains within its \$400 million budget and is on schedule for completion by March 2014.



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FOR BROADCAST USE:

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The park on the former tar ponds site will include a multi-use sports field with synthetic turf, a commons area with an outdoor concert venue and skating area, a playground, a bike park, and a trail network with bridges connecting downtown Sydney with the communities of Whitney Pier, Ashby and the North End. The former coke ovens site will be converted to a green space with road infrastructure for light industrial use.

Construction of the park and green space began this month and is scheduled for completion in fall 2013.

Ce texte est également disponible en français.

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