

close to 100,000 jobs each year, on average, making Ontario's economy more productive and improving quality of life, now and in the future.

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For additional information about investments in infrastructure, visit [infrastructure.gc.ca](http://infrastructure.gc.ca).

For further information about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit [actionplan.gc.ca](http://actionplan.gc.ca).

For more information on how Ontario is revitalizing its infrastructure, visit [ontario.ca/infrastructure](http://ontario.ca/infrastructure).

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## ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS BLOSSOMS THANKS TO FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL SUPPORT

December 19, 2011

**BURLINGTON, ONTARIO** – The governments of Canada and Ontario announced today that they will work together to further develop and improve the Royal Botanical Gardens, the country's largest botanical garden and significant nature sanctuary in the Hamilton and Halton Region.

The Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) is a significant cultural, horticultural, conservation and scientific resource and a major tourist attraction for Southern Ontario. RBG's Rock Garden will be rehabilitated to improve its structural integrity, water and sewage systems, visitor accessibility, and architectural landscape.

"Our Government is proud to invest in Royal Botanical Gardens – Canada's largest plant sanctuary and an important part of our community," said Mike Wallace, Member of Parliament for Burlington, on behalf of the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. "This restoration work will create jobs in Burlington and Hamilton and contribute to the local economy, while ensuring that families, residents and tourists can continue to enjoy the Gardens for many years to come."

"The Royal Botanical Gardens is home to some incredible specimens of nature and holds an important place in our province's history," said the Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Member of Provincial Parliament for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale. "The restoration and rehabilitation of this cultural attraction will create job opportunities and make RBG's Rock Garden accessible for all visitors to enjoy."

"This is an historic moment for an iconic landmark," said Royal Botanical Gardens CEO Mark Runciman. "The enhancements made possible by this funding will solidify the Rock Garden's legacy as a horticultural treasure and world-class tourist destination."

This initiative has been identified as a priority for funding consideration under the Building Canada plan. Through Building Canada, the Government of Canada works with the Government of Ontario to fund initiatives like the Royal Botanical Gardens' Rock Garden to support infrastructure needs in Ontario communities. The Royal Botanical Gardens initiative has total eligible costs estimated at \$14 million. Federal funding is conditional on the initiative meeting all of the relevant requirements under Building Canada, including the completion of an environmental assessment.

This initiative supports Building Together, Ontario's long-term infrastructure plan to repair, rebuild and renew the province's roads and highways, bridges, public transit, schools and postsecondary institutions, hospitals and courthouses. Ontario is investing \$12.8 billion in infrastructure projects in 2011-12, bringing the government's total infrastructure investments since 2003 to \$75 billion. Building modern, efficient infrastructure has created or preserved