

Trestle will be preserved

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Towering structure is unique on Island

Funding was announced yesterday for 174 infrastructure projects across the province with a combined value of \$719 million. Costs are being shared among federal, provincial and local governments.

Both the federal Infrastructure Stimulus Fund and the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund -- a federal-provincial partnership are part of the funding.

The federal government is contributing \$244 million for the projects and the province \$233 million, with the rest coming from local government sources.

On southern Vancouver Island, projects include \$5.7 million to restore the Cowichan Valley's historic Kinsol Trestle.

The towering trestle, which crosses the Koksilah River at the south end of the Cowichan Valley, has long been the object of preservation efforts and calls to replace damaged and unsound timbers. The almost 90-year-old structure, last crossed by a train in 1979, is considered a vital link in the Trans Canada Trail.

The \$4.8 million in funding leaves the Kinsol Trestle Capital Campaign still looking to raise up to \$1.2 million to finish the trestle's rehabilitation.

Other funded projects include for \$4 million for the David Foster Arts Centre in Saanich and \$2.7 million to upgrade to First Peoples Gallery at the Royal B.C. Museum.

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