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## NEW BELLEVILLE BRIDGE HONOURS VETERANS

September 8, 2010

**BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO** – The City of Belleville hosted a bridge dedication ceremony today to celebrate the opening of the Veterans Memorial Bridge, honouring Canadian military veterans and providing local residents with a new connection to other parts of the city. The new 90-metre link stretches over the Moira River and connects Bell Boulevard to Adam Street.

On hand to mark this occasion were: Daryl Kramp, Member of Parliament for Prince-Edward-Hastings and His Worship Neil R. Ellis, Mayor of Belleville.

“This bridge is a tribute to the heroic contributions of the courageous men and women who have served our country with pride,” said MP Kramp, on behalf of the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. “Not only has this project created jobs and boosted the local economy, it honours the sacrifices of our veterans and provides residents with a safe, meaningful and convenient link to other parts of the city.”

Mayor Ellis indicated the completion of this structure and connecting roadwork demonstrates what can be accomplished when all levels of government work together for the betterment of our citizens. He was pleased to acknowledge MP Kramp and the substantive contribution through the federal Gas Tax Fund, and the attendance of the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Ontario’s Minister of Education, at this official opening, recognizing the contribution of \$1,955,500 for roadwork on North Front Street and Bell Boulevard leading up to the bridge.

“We are extremely proud of the commitment and sacrifices made by members of our Canadian Forces over the years, and are thrilled to dedicate this magnificent structure to our veterans in appreciation of the freedom we all enjoy today”, said Mayor Ellis on behalf of members of City Council.

As an honour to veterans, the bridge features a stainless steel monument that recognizes their sacrifice in addition to other notable fixtures, such as lamp posts featuring poppies and the Belleville Veteran Councils' crest. The bridge also has sidewalks on both sides, with an observation platform located at the centre span on the south side.

Through the federal Gas Tax Fund delivered by Infrastructure Canada, the Government of Canada provided \$6 million to the bridge project. The total estimated eligible project cost is \$6 million. The federal Gas Tax Fund provides municipalities with a stable and predictable source of funding to invest in environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure. Funding is also available for planning projects that contribute to the development of communities and regions.

Under the Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada is allocating \$12 billion to infrastructure projects across the country. This is further complemented by a previous commitment of making the federal Gas Tax Fund permanent at \$2 billion nationally as of 2014.

For additional information please contact:

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