

# More Squeaky Wheels

By Kevin Psutka, COPA president and CEO

I wrote an article in 2007 (link to <http://www.copanational.org/December2007.cfm> ) highlighting a new source of funding for airport infrastructure, the Building Canada Plan. Some readers took action and I was pleased to see that some airports received infrastructure funding from the Fund to make improvements.

To see some of the airports that benefited from this initiative, please go to the [Infrastructure Canada](#) website, mouse-over the “Project Profiles” button, select a province, click on “Project list” in the Learn More box on the right and then search the word “airport”. In Ontario, for example, I found 16 airport projects, including several smaller airports like Gore Bay.

I am pleased to report that as part of an expansion of this infrastructure program, now referred to as the [New Building Canada Plan](#), a significant additional source of funding is available for airports. In the previous plan, a certain amount of the Federal Gas Tax was available to communities to spend on certain projects. Now, local and regional airports are included. Here is a quote from the [government website](#):

- “As of April 1, 2014, communities will be able to use the renewed Gas Tax Fund towards a wider range of projects, which means they will have even more flexibility in the types of projects they fund. In addition to the categories listed above, communities will also be able to use the federal GTF towards:
- highways
  - **local and regional airports**
  - short-line rail
  - short-sea shipping
  - disaster mitigation
  - broadband and connectivity
  - brownfield redevelopment
  - culture
  - tourism
  - sport
  - recreation”

As I said in my previous article, this is very much a matter of the squeaky wheel getting the oil. Get together with your fellow aviators; engage your airport management and the local community leaders to take advantage of the expanded funding program. This is the first time, to my knowledge, that the fuel tax we all pay on aviation fuel is available for spending on aviation; a step in the right direction. It is now in your hands to take up the challenge to go get the funding in conjunction with your community leaders.