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Government of Canada Invests in Protection of Motorists and Wildlife in Banff National Park

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LAKE LOUISE, ALBERTA -- 04/09/10 -- Today, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, Blake Richards, Member of Parliament for Wild Rose announced an important investment in wildlife research and monitoring in Banff National Park.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to contribute to this important research," said Mr. Richards. "This project will

look at ways to ensure the safe flow of wildlife across highways in a way that protects both wildlife and motorists on the Trans-Canada Highway in Banff National Park."

The unique collaboration between Parks Canada, the Miistakis Institute for the Rockies, the Western Transportation Institute, the Woodcock Foundation, and the Wilburforce Foundation will promote wildlife monitoring and research in the Rocky Mountains in relation to transportation. The Government of Canada will contribute \$1 million over five years to this partnership, and the Miistakis Institute, a non-profit corporation affiliated with the University of Calgary that undertakes and supports ecosystem research in the Canadian Rockies, will work with the other project partners to contribute \$700,000 over five years. In total, over \$1.7 million will be invested by all partners.

"This research is an example of a highly successful collaboration between government, NGOs, universities, and conservation foundations to evaluate and improve upon highway public safety and wildlife conservation measures," said Minister Prentice. "This announcement is timely as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of Banff National Park."



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