

All taxes and the issuance of bonds, and loans, etc., are handled by the Treasury Department, the money goes into a consolidated revenue fund, and the Department of Highways prepares a construction and maintenance programme. If this is approved by the Legislature, money is allotted from the consolidated revenue fund to permit the Department of Highways to do this work.

Manitoba:

Highway construction may be financed from current revenues or by borrowing for that purpose. Manitoba has used both methods in the past.

All current revenues of the Province of Manitoba, i.e., taxes, fees, etc., are deemed to be for the general purposes of the province and are not set aside or designated for specific expenditure. Current expenditures, which may include monies for highway construction, are authorized by the Legislature. Unless specifically so designated by the Legislature, the authorization provided for current expenditure lapses at the close of the fiscal year for which the funds are voted.

In addition to the foregoing current account authorizations, the Legislature provides non-lapsing authority for capital expenditures including highways. Under this legislative authority, the province borrows upon its credit to finance the expenditures. Temporary financing is usually arranged through the banks and from time to time the province offers for sale its debentures, using the proceeds from the sale to pay off its temporary borrowings, or, depending on the prevailing circumstances, uses the proceeds for the purposes designated in the terms of sale. These offerings may be sold by tender to the highest bidder, or may be upon a negotiated basis. Manitoba has used both methods.

Saskatchewan:

Provincial highways in Saskatchewan are financed from the consolidated revenues of the province. Road grants to the local governments are provided from the same source.

Revenues deriving from road-fuel taxes and vehicle-license fees are deposited to the consolidated fund. There is no dedication or direct allocation of these revenues to road improvements.

Bond issues, loans, or specific taxes have not been used in Saskatchewan for provincial road financing for many years.

Local government financing of roads is mainly from general revenues and provincial grants. Debenture issues have been used rather infrequently.

Alberta:

Alberta has embarked on an extensive highway-construction programme, the payment for which has been made chiefly from revenue from the development of natural resources. During this period there have been no borrowings and no special tax levied for the construction of highways.

However, there are certain charges against motor vehicles common to all provinces and, in so far as Alberta is concerned, the revenue from these charges is deposited in the general fund, and are not earmarked for any specific purpose. These revenues are: