



January 20, 2005

## **Major Funding Flows For Wastewater Treatment In The Alberta Capital Region**

Edmonton, Alberta... Water quality on the North Saskatchewan River is set to improve thanks to a \$20.5 million investment in a new infrastructure project at the Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant through the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP).

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Anne McLellan, on behalf of the Honourable Stephen Owen, Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport), and the Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Alberta Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, together with Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel made the announcement today.

"The Government of Canada is proud to be teaming up with our partners in other orders of government on another ICAP initiative," said Deputy Prime Minister McLellan. "The Enhanced Primary Treatment Project is a solid investment in the infrastructure and sustainability of the Alberta Capital Region, and it supports the Government of Canada's commitment to protecting the environment and improving the quality of life in this country."

The Enhanced Primary Treatment Project (EPT) will see new infrastructure added at the Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant (GBWWTP), including two new tanks and components to provide a high rate clarification system, and screening and diversion facilities to reduce the amount of raw sewage entering the North Saskatchewan River through mixed (combined) storm and sanitary sewer overflows.

"I am very pleased to support a project that will help improve quality-of-life for residents and contribute to a better environment at the same time," said Dr. Oberg. "ICAP projects like this one represent what's important to individual Alberta communities, because they're initiated by the people who live in those communities. We will continue to work together with municipal and federal governments to respond to the needs of Alberta communities."

"By significantly improving Gold Bar's treatment capacity and reducing the amount of untreated storm water released to the North Saskatchewan River, the new EPT facilities bring the City of Edmonton one step closer to fulfilling its long-term vision to be a leading authority in wastewater management," said Mayor Mandel. "Long identified as a priority under ICAP, this project demonstrates the foresight and cooperation that's possible between government partners to ensure funding is available to invest in our environment and meet the infrastructure demands of a growing city, like Edmonton."

ICAP is a partnership between the federal, provincial and municipal governments, and in some cases, private sector organizations. Funding approved for each ICAP project is shared among the governments of Canada, Alberta and each community or project proponent.

To date, 643 projects have been announced in Alberta under the program. With these projects, ICAP has exceeded its target of directing at least \$508 million in federal, provincial and municipal funding toward municipal infrastructure in urban and rural communities across the province.

In Alberta, ICAP is implemented by Western Economic Diversification Canada and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, and is administered by a joint secretariat. The federal and provincial governments together will invest \$13.3 million toward the \$20.5 million announced today. The City of Edmonton will invest the remaining \$7.2 million.

The ICAP Management Committee approves the projects and is composed of representatives from the Governments of Canada and Alberta, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C).

"The Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program is a good example of a working partnership between all three levels of government," said Dorothy Moore on behalf of the AUMA. "The infrastructure needs of municipalities have never been greater. ICAP's versatile three-way partnership addresses infrastructure needs in all sizes of municipalities."

"The funding support offered by ICAP allows our member municipalities to take on needed infrastructure improvements," said Eugene Wauters on behalf of the AAMD&C. "Infrastructure is a high priority for municipal districts and counties."

The Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program agreement was signed Oct. 10, 2000. Federal funding for ICAP was provided for in the March 2004 federal budget.

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#### **NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS:**

Details of the project and an Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program fact sheet are attached.

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#### **Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program**

#### **Alberta Fact Sheet**

#### **Partnership Program**

- The Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP) is a partnership involving federal, provincial and municipal governments that also allows for private-sector participation. All three levels of government

- played an important part in the design of this program.
- Under ICAP, the federal and provincial governments provide up to two-thirds of the funding for eligible costs. Partnering communities or private partners in the program provide the remaining one-third of project funding and any ineligible costs. For the 643 projects and \$543.5 million approved since June 8, 2001, federal and provincial contributions total approximately \$308.2 million.
- In Alberta, the program is implemented by Western Economic Diversification Canada and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, and administered by a joint secretariat.

### **Grassroots Driven**

- ICAP is designed with a bottom-up approach. Accordingly, municipalities play an important role in the program. The majority of projects will address local infrastructure needs identified by the municipalities.
- The federal and provincial governments may also propose projects to ensure that regional projects involving more than one municipality are not overlooked.

### **Program Priorities**

- ICAP's **first priority** is "green" municipal infrastructure. Green infrastructure includes projects related to water and wastewater systems, water management, solid waste management and recycling, and capital expenditures to retrofit or improve the energy efficiency of buildings and facilities owned by local municipalities.
- The ICAP agreement specifies that a minimum 40 per cent of the total value of all approved projects must be invested in green municipal infrastructure.
- **Secondary priorities** include local transportation, cultural and recreational facilities, infrastructure supporting tourism, rural and remote telecommunications, high-speed Internet access for local public institutions and affordable housing.

To ensure the infrastructure needs of rural communities are considered, a minimum 26 per cent of total approved costs for all projects in Alberta must be invested in projects proposed by rural municipalities.

### **Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program**

## **Backgrounder**

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### **Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant Enhanced Primary Treatment Project**

#### **Scope of project**

The Enhanced Primary Treatment Project (EPT) involves the addition of new infrastructure at the Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant (GBWWTP). Additions include two new tanks and components to provide a high rate clarification system, and screening and diversion facilities to reduce the amount of raw sewage entering the North Saskatchewan River through mixed (combined) storm and sanitary sewer overflows. The EPT project will significantly improve the wet weather treatment capacity at the GBWWTP and reduce the volume of untreated combined sewage and floatable released directly into the North Saskatchewan River. The result will be better water quality in the North Saskatchewan River.

#### **Funding Partners**

The Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP) is a partnership involving federal, provincial and municipal governments that also allows for private-sector participation. In today's \$20.5 million announcement, federal and provincial contributions represent two-thirds of eligible costs totaling approximately \$13.3 million (\$6.6 million each). The City of Edmonton is contributing the remainder, totaling approximately \$7.2 million. This is the second ICAP investment in the facility by the three partners. The first project, approved in 2001, was an investment totaling \$3.4 million. These ICAP investments in this facility build upon earlier investments of \$35.7 million, made through the tripartite Canada-Alberta Infrastructure Works Program.

## **Environmental Impact**

In compliance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), federal and provincial authorities have ensured that an environmental assessment of this project was conducted before final authorization was given. In accordance with Section 20(1)(a) of the CEAA and conditional on the mitigation measures outlined to the proponent, it was determined that the project could proceed without significant adverse environmental effects.

## **Timelines**

The site preparation for the construction of the Enhanced Primary Treatment facility has been completed and contracts for major facility construction have been awarded. The ICAP funded portion of the project will be completed by March 31, 2006. The entire project will be constructed by July 2006. Full facility performance testing that requires wet weather flow will be completed by October 2006.

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