

February 2, 2007

## **First Alberta Communities Receive Funding for Public Transit and Water, Sewage and Waste Management Systems**

Edmonton, Alberta... Municipalities across Alberta are set to benefit as Canada's New Government and the Government of Alberta announce \$130 million in project funding through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

The communities of Medicine Hat and Brooks received \$12 million today for local projects. Eligible projects under CAMRIF include water and sewage treatment, solid waste management, public transit and energy improvements to municipal buildings. The fund also supports better roads and bridges, cultural, recreational and tourism projects, and improved broadband Internet access. Projects are selected on a competitive basis from applications received from Alberta communities.

"Canada's New Government is getting things done for the people of Alberta," said the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification. "Through these important infrastructure investments, we are delivering on our promises to make communities vibrant and productive places to live, work and raise families."

"The CAMRIF program is a great example of the kind of results that can be achieved when the federal, provincial and municipal governments work together for the benefit of Albertans," said the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation. "The approved projects range from water/wastewater and recreation to local roads and bridges."

The Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is a joint initiative between the Governments of Canada and Alberta that enables communities to address local infrastructure needs. The federal and provincial governments will each contribute \$88 million to the program, for a total contribution of \$176 million.

"Today the government took a big step towards fulfilling the CAMRIF commitment they made last spring," said Donald W. Johnson, President of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC). "The AAMDC is encouraged to see how the funds will actually be used for vital infrastructure projects. As rural municipal infrastructure demands continue to grow, programs such as CAMRIF are certainly needed to maintain vibrant and sustainable rural communities."

"Given Alberta's unprecedented growth and the challenges municipalities face keeping pace with growth, CAMRIF is critical to the sustainability of our communities. CAMRIF's aim to support green projects that meet Canada and Alberta's environmental objectives, while improving the health and safety of Alberta's residents, is consistent with AUMA's goals to build communities that are economically viable, culturally vibrant, socially inclusive and environmentally responsible and supported by sound governance practices. We are pleased with the announcement," said AUMA President Bob Hawkesworth.

CAMRIF is implemented by Western Economic Diversification Canada and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, and is administered by a joint secretariat.

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## **Backgrounder**

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## **Fact Sheet**

### **Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)**

#### **Partnership Program**

- The Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF) is designed to address local infrastructure needs in rural and urban Alberta. It ensures all Albertans, whether they live in large, small or remote communities, share in the benefits of infrastructure investments.
- Through the fund, the Governments of Canada and Alberta invest in local infrastructure projects. These projects are vital to sustaining strong economic growth and quality of life in Canadian communities.
- The federal-provincial CAMRIF Agreement provides \$88 million each in federal and provincial funding for municipal infrastructure renewal, reflecting shared federal and provincial priorities. With matching one-third contributions from municipalities, total program funding will be at least \$264 million.
- CAMRIF is implemented by Western Economic Diversification Canada and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, and is administered by a joint secretariat.

#### **Program Priorities**

- A minimum of 55 per cent of funding under CAMRIF targets "green infrastructure" projects that contribute to community economic development and environmental quality of life. These include water, wastewater, solid waste, environmental energy improvements and public transit. The fund also invests in recreational infrastructure, tourism and cultural projects, local roads and broadband connectivity.
- At least 80 per cent of CAMRIF funding is dedicated to rural municipalities with a population of less than 250,000. The remaining 20 per cent is available to urban municipalities with a population greater than 250,000.
- At total of \$880,000 is also available to municipalities for Municipal Capacity Building (MCB) projects. Projects may include, but is not limited to, the acquisition of infrastructure planning software, training to use that software, planning studies to determine the inventory and condition of infrastructure assets in the municipality or the development of a demand asset management system.

#### **Local input and collaboration**

- CAMRIF is managed by a six-member Management Committee consisting of two federal representatives, two provincial representatives, and two members representing Alberta's municipal associations-the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. The Management Committee develops the Management Committee guidelines and oversees the project review and selection process. Projects are selected on a competitive basis from applications received from Alberta communities. The deadline to submit applications for the first intake was July 31, 2006.
- Applications for the second intake will be accepted in Spring 2007.

## **Environmental Assessment**

- CAMRIF projects are required to successfully complete applicable environmental assessment processes, and funding is conditional on compliance with all applicable federal and provincial requirements.

## **How to apply**

- For more information, contact the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Joint Secretariat by phone (toll free) at 1-800-396-0214, by e-mail at [camrif@gov.ab.ca](mailto:camrif@gov.ab.ca) or visit the website [www.camrif.ca](http://www.camrif.ca).
- Information about Government of Canada and Alberta's infrastructure programs is available at [www.infrastructure.gc.ca](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca) and [www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca](http://www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca).

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