



February 9, 2007

Communities in Southern Alberta get important infrastructure funding from Canada's New Government and the Government of Alberta

Bashaw, Alberta... Residents of Southern Alberta will benefit from an investment of more than \$17 million from Canada's New Government and the Government of Alberta in six municipal infrastructure projects.

The six projects focus largely on "green" infrastructure that will connect more households to municipal water and wastewater systems, reduce the amount of solid waste that is landfilled and increase energy efficiency. The projects will also increase safety on local roads.

Through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF), the federal and provincial governments will contribute matching amounts to projects located in Starland County, the Towns of Strathmore, Drumhellar and Bashaw, and the Villages of Bawlf and Consort.

Kevin Sorenson, member of Parliament for Crowfoot, Alberta, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, made the joint announcement today.

"Canada's New Government is getting things done for the people of Southern Alberta," said MP Sorenson. "Through this investment of over \$17 million, we are improving the environment and the quality of life for families".

"Improving Albertans' quality of life is one of the Government of Alberta's five priorities and that is what these projects are about," said Minister Ouellette. "These projects go a long way towards making that happen in Southern Alberta communities."

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. Over the course of CAMRIF, the federal and provincial governments will each contribute \$88 million in funding for municipal infrastructure renewal.

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.

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Backgrounder

Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)

The following projects are receiving funding under the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

Starland County

Starland Rural Water Expansion Project

(pending environmental assessment)

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$4,496,512

The project will expand the rural water supply system in Starland County in the Morrin west area (water supply from the Village of Morrin), and in the Craigmyle north area (water supply from the Hamlet of Craigmyle). The main focus of the program will be installation of water line, and mechanical installations to connect the systems to the distribution centres. The Morrin west system includes installation of 42,920 m of water pipeline, and the Craigmyle north system includes 74,940 m of pipeline installation.

Town of Bashaw

Community Centre Envelope Revitalization

(pending environmental assessment)

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$1,233,332

This project involves envelope revitalization, expansion and heating/ventilation upgrades. A sloped roof with a single peak will also be erected over an expanded floor space to create additional functional areas, increase library capacity and provide a new daycare.

Town of Drumheller

Drumheller & District Regional Landfill Expansion Project

(pending environmental assessment)

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$5,200,000

The project will provide for necessary upgrades to the landfill site, ensuring that the environmental impacts on the ground water beneath the landfill site and the surface water entering the Red Deer River are mitigated. A secondary portion of the project will include the design and development of an engineered composting facility and a regional recycling program, which will assist in reducing the amount of per capita

waste being landfilled.

Town of Strathmore

Expansion of the Town of Strathmore's Wastewater Treatment Plant

(pending environmental assessment)

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$ 6,000,000

This expansion includes a complete primary treatment system, nitrogen and phosphorous removal, biological nutrient removal (BNR) reactors, and ultraviolet disinfection followed by pressurized granular media filtration.

Village of Bawlf

Alberta Avenue Upgrades

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$126,500

This project will allow three blocks of Alberta Avenue (the road used when entering Bawlf) to be renewed.

Village of Consort

Paving Program

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$194,582

This project will allow for the paving of 48 Street from 52 Avenue to 54 Avenue.

Backgrounder

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.
- A total of \$1,760,000 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 or visit the website www.camrif.ca.
- Information about Government of Canada and Alberta's infrastructure programs is available at www.infrastructure.gc.ca and www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca.

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