

February 10, 2007

Safer roads, clean water and lower risk of floods for Lethbridge, \$6.48 million from Canada's New Government and the Government of Alberta

Lethbridge, Alberta... The City and County of Lethbridge will benefit from an investment of \$6.48 million from Canada's New Government and the Government of Alberta in two municipal infrastructure projects.

A "green" infrastructure project in the City of Lethbridge will connect more businesses and institutions to municipal wastewater collection and treatment systems and reduce the risk of flooding for approximately 2500 households. The site of the project will integrate a storm-water management system with outdoor recreation facilities that are used by schools and the community. The second project, involving improvements to the West Monarch Road, will increase safety for drivers.

Through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF), the federal and provincial governments will each contribute \$3 million towards the West Lethbridge Core Facilities Project in the City of Lethbridge, as well as \$240,000 each towards improving the West Monarch Road in the County of Lethbridge.

Rick Casson, member of Parliament for Lethbridge, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and Clint Dunford, MLA for Lethbridge-West, on behalf of 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 the County and City of Lethbridge," said MP Casson. "Today's investment of over \$6.48 million will provide safer roads, help reduce risks of flooding and connect more buildings to wastewater collection and treatments systems."

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

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.

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. 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).

City of Lethbridge

West Lethbridge Core Facilities Project

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$6,000,000 (pending environmental assessment)

The project is to construct a storm water facility that integrates the storm water management systems of the surrounding area with outdoor recreation facilities to be used by the school complex which includes a public and separate high school joined together with a public library which are to be built to LEED Silver designation.

County of Lethbridge No. 26

West Monarch Road Upgrade

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$ 480,000

This project will allow for asphalt concrete pavement (ACP) overlay on 3.2 kilometres of West Monarch Road.

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.

Send us your comments or questions

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