



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*March 6, 2007*

### **Residents of Edmonton and Strathcona County will benefit from new transit facilities and improved water quality**

Edmonton, Alberta... Residents in the City of Edmonton and Strathcona County will benefit from three "green" municipal infrastructure projects that will enhance transit operations and provide new water treatment capabilities.

A combined federal/provincial investment of \$15.2 million will go to the City of Edmonton for two infrastructure projects. The first project will receive \$9.2 million to build three new bus terminals at the bus stations of Leger, Lewis Estates and Meadows that will feature customer waiting facilities and passenger drop-off sites. The second project will receive \$6 million to construct wetlands to protect the North Saskatchewan River by reducing storm water runoff and improving water quality.

Strathcona County will receive \$6 million in combined federal/provincial investments to increase transit accessibility for seniors and persons with physical disabilities by replacing 20 high-floor buses with new low-floor buses.

Through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF), the federal and provincial governments will each contribute a total of \$10.6 million for these three projects for a total of \$21.2 million in combined federal/provincial funding.

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and Iris Evans, Minister of Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry, on behalf of Luke Ouellette, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, made the joint announcement today.

"Canada's New Government is getting things done for the people in the City of Edmonton and Strathcona County," said Minister Ambrose. "Today's investment of \$21.2 million will enhance transportation services, ensure clean drinking water and improve fire protection for homes in the area."

"These new projects demonstrate what we can do when all levels of government work together. Because of our cooperation, we are able fulfill two of Premier Stelmach's five priorities: to manage growth pressures and improve Albertans' quality of life," said Minister Evans. "Other priorities identified by Premier Stelmach are to govern with integrity and transparency, build a stronger Alberta and provide safe and secure 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.

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**

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

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

#### **City of Edmonton**

##### **Three New Transit Centres**

Combined federal/provincial investment: \$9,200,000 (pending environmental assessment)

This project includes the construction of three new bus terminals at Leger, Lewis Estates and Meadows that feature customer waiting facilities and passenger drop-off sites. Lewis Estates and Meadows will also include "park and ride" lots.

##### **Wetlands - Kennedale & Pylypow**

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

These constructed wetlands will protect the river by providing storm water quantity control and water quality treatment benefits. Storm water brings pollutants and bacteria to the North Saskatchewan River in Edmonton, and this project will help mitigate that risk.

#### **Strathcona County**

##### **Low-Floor Bus Replacement**

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

This project will replace 20 high-floor buses with low-floor buses, increasing accessibility for seniors and persons with physical disabilities.

### 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](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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