

December 20, 2007

Red Deer County residents get cleaner and safer water

County of Red Deer... The federal and provincial governments will jointly invest \$6 million to upgrade water, sanitary sewer and storm systems in the County of Red Deer.

Bob Mills, Member of Parliament for Red Deer, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and MLA for Innisfail–Sylvan Lake, announced the funding through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

"This investment will ensure safe drinking water, an efficient and reliable wastewater system and a reduction in flooding for the residents of the County of Red Deer," said MP Mills. "The Government of Canada is proud to work in partnership to help our communities become even more vibrant and productive places to live, work and raise families."

The project involves upgrading the aging water, sanitary sewer and storm systems in Springbrook, Harvard Industrial Park and at the Red Deer Airport. 350 households will benefit from the upgrade and have access to improved drinking water.

"Increasing the capacity of these important water, sewer and storm systems reflects Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity," said Ouellette. "These improvements will serve the people of Red Deer County for the next 100 years."

Under the initial CAMRIF Agreement signed in June 2006, the federal and provincial governments each committed \$88 million to the fund, with participating local governments expected to make up the remaining costs. This year, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have each provided an additional \$19 million to CAMRIF as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs. The total amount available from CAMRIF, with federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in projects, is \$321 million.

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, cultural projects, local roads and broadband connectivity. Projects are selected on a competitive basis from applications received from Alberta communities.

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Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)

The following project is receiving funding under CAMRIF:

County of Red Deer

Springbrook, Industrial Park, and Red Deer Airport Infrastructure Replacement Project

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

This project will completely upgrade the aging water, sanitary sewer and storm systems. Replacing the water system will eliminate future water line failures from aging pipe, frost and soil conditions. Standardized pipe bedding material and backfill will eliminate future settlements. The proposed storm system will be adequately sized to manage and carry water during periods when there are higher frequency of storms, thus eliminating flooding. Significant electrical energy will be saved by not having to pump a minimum of 71,000 M3 (cubic metres) of infiltrated wastewater annually, through two lift stations and the sewage treatment plant.

Fact Sheet

Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)

Partnership Program

- 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.
- Under the initial CAMRIF Agreement signed in June 2006, the federal and provincial governments each committed \$88 million to the fund, with participating local governments expected to make up the remaining costs.
- This year, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have each provided an additional \$19 million to CAMRIF as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs.
- The total amount available from CAMRIF, with federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in projects, is \$321 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 \$724,584 is also available to municipalities for Municipal Capacity Building 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 second intake was May 31, 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.

For more information

- Contact the CAMRIF Joint Secretariat by phone (toll free) at 1-800-396-0214, by e-mail at camrif@gov.ab.ca or visit the website <http://www.camrif.ca/>.
- Information about Government of Canada and Alberta's infrastructure programs is available at <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/> and <http://www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca/>.

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