

February 1, 2008

High Level and Zama City to benefit from infrastructure investment

High Level... The federal and provincial governments will jointly invest \$1.3 million towards expanding wastewater service in the Town of High Level and improving the condition of Aspen Drive in the hamlet of Zama City in the Municipal District of Mackenzie.

Chris Warkentin, Member of Parliament for Peace River, 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 Frank Oberle, MLA for Peace River, on behalf of the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, announced the funding through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

"Today's announcement will improve wastewater service to more than 1,200 homes in the Town of High Level and make Aspen Drive safer for school children, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists," said MP Chris Warkentin. "We are working in partnership with all orders of government to make investments that will leave real and lasting benefits to the communities we serve."

The Town of High Level will benefit from funding to complete the final phase of a multi-year project that will extend the Town's wastewater system and provide over 1,200 homes with improved wastewater service. The project will also help protect groundwater in the region and ensure the health of the Bushe and Peace Rivers.

"Construction of sanitary sewer mains in High Level and road improvements in the Hamlet of Zama are just two examples of how the Government of Alberta is working with communities to improve infrastructure in this province," said Oberle. "These projects reflect Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity."

The Municipal District of Mackenzie will receive funding to reconstruct and improve Aspen Drive in the Hamlet of Zama City. This project will result in a safer, more efficient street and improve dust control within the nearby school and community facilities. The improvements to Aspen Drive are part of the MD of Mackenzie's commitment to upgrade and pave the majority of the roads in the Hamlet of Zama City within the next ten 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 the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs. The total amount available from the 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 the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

Town of High Level

Sanitary Trunk Gravity Mains

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$760,000 (pending environmental assessment)

This wastewater management project will replace a section of substandard sanitary force under 100th Avenue from 98th Street to the CN Railway. This elimination of on-site sewage and reduction in the potential for pump failure will help protect surface and ground waters considerably.

Municipal District of Mackenzie

Improvement of Aspen Drive in the Hamlet of Zama City

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$520,000 (pending environmental assessment)

Complete reconstruction of Aspen Drive is needed to eliminate potholes, ridges and soft spots. This requires approximately 520 metres of road reconstruction, with a new granular base and pavement. This project would provide a safer, more efficient street for traffic by eliminating the potholes, ridges and dust.

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.
- 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 the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs.
- The total amount available from the 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 (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 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 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 <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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