

February 1, 2008

Funding Improves County of Lethbridge Infrastructure Management

County of Lethbridge... The federal and provincial governments will invest more than \$180,000 towards the development of an Infrastructure Management Plan for the County of Lethbridge.

Rick Casson, Member of Parliament for Lethbridge, 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 Clint Dunford, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Lethbridge-West, on behalf of Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, announced the funding through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

"The Government of Canada is proud to work in partnership with the province of Alberta to ensure our communities remain safe and productive places to work and live," said MP Casson. "Investing in modern infrastructure management planning will enhance the economic growth, productivity and competitive opportunities for the County."

The Infrastructure Management Plan will provide the municipality with a detailed listing of all assets owned by the County of Lethbridge, and the expected life span of the infrastructure. This allows for more accurate forecasting and budgeting, and better planning for the County's short- and long-term infrastructure needs.

"This project will help the County of Lethbridge to better plan, schedule and budget for the maintenance and replacement of critical infrastructure," said Dunford. Supporting municipal infrastructure reflects Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity."

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, 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) under the Municipal Capacity Building (MCB) category.

The objectives of the MCB program are to encourage the use of integrated asset management by small-scale Canadian municipalities. The MCB component will be based on the following strategic objectives:

- a) To promote the implementation of holistic approaches to public infrastructure planning and management;
- b) To encourage a culture of using asset management as a decision making approach;
- c) To promote the integration of demand management in public infrastructure planning and management; and
- d) To encourage dissemination of project results to other municipalities.

County of Lethbridge

Infrastructure Management Plan

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$180,508

This project will enable the municipality to acquire software to collect detailed data of the County' of Lethbridge's infrastructure inventory. This will allow the municipality to better plan for their short-term and long-term infrastructure needs.

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 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 approved for municipalities for Municipal Capacity Building (MCB) projects. Projects may include, but are 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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