



December 19, 2008

Communities to Benefit from Canada-Alberta Partnership

Edmonton... Residents of smaller communities across Alberta can soon apply to a Canada-Alberta infrastructure fund of \$176 million under the Communities Component of the Building Canada plan. Through the program, eligible Alberta municipalities of less than 100,000 also contribute one-third of project costs, matching the federal and provincial contributions.

Eight project categories will be eligible for the first intake. Projects will be evaluated by a federal-provincial committee through a competitive application-based process. More information on the application process will be provided to municipalities as the program rolls out.

The announcement was made today by Minister of State (Transport), Rob Merrifield, and Minister of Labour, Rona Ambrose, along with Alberta Minister of Transportation Luke Ouellette.

“The Communities Component of Building Canada provides funding for infrastructure projects in smaller communities, helping them meet their unique challenges,” said Minister Merrifield. “The funding investments under this program demonstrate our commitment to use federal investments in infrastructure as a way to boost our economy.”

“Alberta communities will benefit from today’s announcement through enhanced investment in municipal infrastructure,” said Minister Ouellette. “The Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund is an excellent example of cooperation and shared investment by municipal, provincial and federal governments.”

“Funding under the Communities Component will support priority infrastructure projects that contribute to a growing economy, a cleaner environment, and stronger communities,” said Minister Ambrose. “These projects will allow communities in Alberta to remain competitive and get people working during this period of economic uncertainty.”

Communities will be able to apply for funding online at the Alberta BCF Communities Component website by January 5, 2009. The Building Canada Communities Component will fund eight categories of infrastructure. They are water, wastewater, solid waste, local roads, culture, sports, connectivity and green energy. In addition, a number of eligible projects that were unfunded under CAMRIF will be considered for funding under this intake of the Communities Component.

Through its unprecedented Building Canada infrastructure plan, the federal government is providing long-term, stable and predictable funding to help meet infrastructure needs across Canada. Building Canada supports a stronger, safer and better country.

For more information on the Building Canada plan, visit www.buildingcanada.gc.ca.

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Building Canada Communities Component in Alberta

Building Canada Fund Communities Component:

On August 29, 2008, the federal and provincial governments signed the Building Canada plan Framework Agreement. The Framework Agreement governs the Building Canada Fund, Provincial and Territorial Base Funding and formalizes the commitment to the Federal Gas Tax funding extension.

The Building Canada Fund has two components. Under the Major Infrastructure Component, Canada and Alberta will both contribute more than \$752 million towards larger, strategic projects of national and regional significance. Under the Communities Component, Canada and Alberta will both contribute \$88 million towards smaller projects in communities with population less than 100,000. Funded communities will also have to contribute one-third (1/3) toward approved projects.

Alberta's Communities Component first round intake:

Details regarding the first round of application intakes will be made available shortly. During this intake, it is expected that only one application can be submitted by or on behalf of each municipality. Applications across eight of the 17 eligible categories of infrastructure will be accepted during this intake. These include water, waste water, solid waste management, local roads, culture, sports, connectivity and green energy. Future intakes will be announced at a later date.

All requests for project funding under the Communities Component will be subject to a competitive, application-based process. This process will be administered by a Joint Secretariat made up of federal and provincial officials. The Secretariat will provide the first level of due diligence, including an engineering, environmental, and legal review of the applications. The Secretariat will prepare briefing material for the Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee will review and rank the applications against program criteria, and recommend projects for approval.

Funding Categories

CONNECTIVITY AND BROADBAND - The BCF Communities Component funding in this category will be directed towards Projects designed to:

- Improve the delivery of public services, such as government services, education and health;
- Improve quality of life, social development, reduce travel requirements, and increase the potential for innovation and economic development by connecting Canadians—particularly in rural and remote communities.

WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE - The BCF Communities Component will encourage investments in wastewater infrastructure designed to:

- Reduce the negative impacts of municipal wastewater effluent or storm-water effluent on human health and the environment;
- Improve the management of wastewater sludge;
- Improve the management and efficiency of municipal wastewater infrastructure or storm-water Infrastructure, including improvements to the energy efficiency of the Infrastructure;
- Improve the quality of treated municipal wastewater effluent and storm-water discharged into the environment.

GREEN ENERGY - The BCF Communities Component will stimulate investments in sustainable energy

infrastructure that contribute to:

- Increased availability and/or security of Canada and Alberta's clean energy supply;
- Increased availability of renewable energy;
- Improved air quality;
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - The BCF Communities Component will promote investments in solid-waste processing infrastructure that can reduce the environmental impacts of this waste.

DRINKING WATER - The BCF Communities Component promotes long-term funding for water infrastructure Projects designed to:

- Improve the safety, management, reliability and efficiency of Canada and Alberta's drinking water treatment and distribution systems;
- Increase the number of households with access to safe drinking water that meets or exceeds the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality and Alberta's drinking water quality requirements;
- Improve protection and management of drinking water sources;
- Improve conservation of water.

LOCAL ROADS - The BCF Communities Component will support investments in local roads to:

- Improve road safety, mobility and sustainability;
- Promote the rehabilitation of bridges, tunnels and other structures;
- Support economic and community development.

SPORT - The BCF Communities Component funding in this category will be directed towards Projects designed to:

- Provide increased opportunities for sport activities that can improve the health of Canadians and strengthen Canadian communities;
- Provide increased opportunities for the development of Canadian athletes and/or the hosting of major amateur athletic events.

CULTURE - The BCF Communities Component funding in this category will be directed towards projects that:

- Support arts and/or designated heritage facilities;
- Help communities express, preserve, develop and promote their culture and/or heritage within Canada and Alberta.

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