
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2007

Residents of Brazeau County and the Town of Jasper will benefit from two infrastructure projects

Brazeau County, Alberta – The Government of Canada and Province of Alberta announced two infrastructure projects today worth more than \$1 million for the Yellowhead Region. Members of Parliament Rob Merrifield (Yellowhead) and Blaine Calkins (Wetaskiwin), 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, Tony Abbott, MLA for Drayton Valley - Calmar and Ivan Strang, MLA for West Yellowhead, announced the funding through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

Brazeau County is receiving a joint federal/provincial investment of \$933,332 toward the construction of a new energy-efficient fire hall. The Village of Breton has donated highway-adjacent land for the new hall, which will be 25 per cent more efficient than the National Building Code standard. This fire hall will serve the residents of the Village of Breton and the surrounding rural communities, as well as aid neighbouring municipalities.

The Town of Jasper is receiving \$76,666 toward the purchase, installation and training of new Work Tech software. This software will allow for smoother, more efficient tracking of the age and condition of existing infrastructure and material assets, allowing for more accurate forecasting and budgeting.

“Today’s investment of more than \$1 million will both improve safety of the residents of Breton and the surrounding region, as well as help the Town of Jasper in managing their growth pressures and budget forecasts,” said MP Merrifield.

“The Government of Alberta is pleased to contribute to these important infrastructure projects for the Yellowhead Region,” said Abbott. Strang added, “These projects reflect 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, 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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Backgrounder

Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)

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

Brazeau County

New Fire Hall – Village of Breton

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$933,332 (pending environmental assessment)

This green project involves building a new, larger, energy-efficient and sustainable fire hall in the Village of Breton that will serve the long-term needs of the County. The building will meet Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards and Commercial Building Incentive Program standards (25 per cent more efficient than the National Building Code standard).

Town of Jasper

Work Tech Lifecycle Costing Software – Town of Jasper

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$76,666

This project involves the development of an inventory of infrastructure assets, including the location, book value, condition and expected lifespan of assets and the purchase, installation and training to become operational in the use of software for complete job costing and asset management.

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.
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- 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/>.