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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 17, 2007

**St. Albert receives \$6 million from the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta to redevelop Riel Recreation Park**

**CITY OF ST. ALBERT, Alberta** – The federal and provincial governments will invest \$6 million to redevelop the Riel Recreation Park. John Williams, Member of Parliament for Edmonton-St. Albert, 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 Doug Horner, MLA for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert and Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, announced the funding through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

“The Government of Canada is continuing to show real results for the people of Alberta,” said MP John Williams. “Together with our partners, we are pleased to provide communities with access to healthy lifestyles and active living through long-term infrastructure investments.”

The redevelopment of the Riel Recreation Park will provide the residents of St. Albert and neighbouring communities with a multi-purpose outdoor recreational facility that will allow up to 100,000 more people per year to utilize the facility. The redevelopment project will benefit the overall community, as it will foster economic growth for local businesses while promoting healthy living.

“The Government of Alberta is pleased to work with other levels of government to help St. Albert redevelop Riel Recreation Park,” said Horner. “This project 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, 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 project is receiving funding under the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

#### **City of St. Albert**

##### **Riel Recreation Park**

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

The City of St. Albert currently does not have a multi-purpose facility that would accommodate local recreational programs and activities such as games organized by the St. Albert Minor and High School Football teams. For over 20 years, the St. Albert Minor and High School Football teams have been playing their home games in other venues around the Capital Region. This has resulted in the teams commuting to Edmonton annually at an average of 50 kms per round trip for these football tournaments. At completion of the project, the facility will become the permanent home for the St. Albert Minor and High School Football teams. This will result in a reduction in green house gas (GHG) emissions by reducing the need for travel.

The redevelopment of the Riel Recreation Park will provide the residents of St. Albert and neighbouring communities with a multi-purpose facility that would host local recreational activities. The recreation park will provide the community with the opportunity for recreation, fitness, relaxation and personal development. The facility is located in a safe area and is easily accessible to all the residents. The project is expected to result in an annual increase of 100,000 users and will house a variety of recreational programs that will help the community stay active all year round.

## 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](mailto: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/>.