
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2007

**Local residents and industry to benefit from reconstruction of
Akasu Road in the County of Minburn**

County of Minburn, Alberta – The federal and provincial governments will invest \$363,332 to reconstruct Akasu Road in the County of Minburn.

Leon Benoit, Member of Parliament for Vegreville–Wainwright, 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 Lloyd Snelgrove, MLA for Vermillion – Lloydminster, announced the funding through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

"Today's joint investment will result in a safer, more efficient road for local residents and industry," said MP Benoit. "The Government of Canada recognizes that strong, healthy communities require modern infrastructure, which is why we are delivering on our promise to help communities become more vibrant and productive places to live, work and raise families."

The project involves the reconstruction of approximately 8.4 kilometres of Akasu Road. Reconstruction of the road top is expected to improve safety, decrease emergency response time and reduce operating and maintenance costs for the County of Minburn. Over 500 vehicles per day will benefit from the safer and more efficient roadway.

"Reconstruction to Akasu Road will improve safety, benefit road users and rate payers in the County of Minburn and reduce impact on the environment," said Snelgrove. "Improving Alberta's roads is part of 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).

County of Minburn

Akasu Road (TWP Road 522) Project

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$363,332 (pending environmental assessment)

The project involves the reconstruction (not including paving) of the Akasu Road (Township Road 522) from the junction of Highway 16 to the junction of Highway 36 (approximately 8.4 kilometres). The road is heavily travelled with truck, agricultural and oilfield traffic. The section to be reconstructed is the main access road for the hauling of commodities for the agricultural industry, oil and gas industry and gravel for the County.

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/>.