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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 23, 2007

**Lacombe residents will benefit from expanded facilities and improved safety for drivers**

**Lacombe, Alberta** – Residents of the Town of Lacombe and Lacombe County will benefit from three municipal infrastructure projects that will provide an environmentally friendly regional centre, road upgrades and an outdoor recreation facility.

An investment of \$2,666,666 towards a “green” project in the Town of Lacombe will renovate and expand the Lacombe Memorial Centre to meet the recreational, social, cultural, business and learning needs of the Town and surrounding areas. The renovations to the Centre will triple the available floor space, while using new technologies in the building’s mechanical and electrical systems to reduce emissions and energy costs.

A \$1,406,420 investment towards upgrading Aspelund Road in Lacombe County will improve safety for drivers, support increased traffic, and enable industry to use the road to deliver products and services on a year-round basis. The third project, an investment of \$201,332 towards constructing a new outdoor multi-use facility in the Hamlet of Mirror, will provide more recreational opportunities for youth.

Through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF), the federal and provincial governments will each contribute a total of more than \$2.1 million to the three projects.

Blaine Calkins, Member of Parliament for Wetaskiwin, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and Raymond Prins, MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka, on behalf of the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, made the joint announcement today.

“Canada’s New Government is getting things done for the people of the Town of Lacombe and Lacombe County,” said MP Calkins. “Today’s investment of more than \$4.27 million will improve the quality of life of residents by making the environment cleaner, supporting growth and providing more recreational opportunities.”

Prins said improving Albertans’ quality of life is one of Premier Ed Stelmach’s five priorities. “These three projects go a long way toward realizing that goal, and demonstrate that different levels of government can work together for the benefit of Albertans,” said Prins.

The Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is a joint initiative between the Governments of Canada and Alberta that enables communities to address local infrastructure needs. Over the course of CAMRIF, the federal and provincial governments will each contribute \$88 million in funding for municipal infrastructure renewal.

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. 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).

#### **Town of Lacombe**

##### **Lacombe Regional Centennial Centre**

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$2,666,666 (pending environmental assessment)

The focus of this project is to create an environmentally friendly building as a key component of the renovation and expansion of the Lacombe Memorial Centre, through the incorporation of new technologies in the mechanical and electrical systems and the use of water conservation. The project will meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

#### **Lacombe County**

##### **Aspelund Road Overlay**

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$1,406,420

The project will place asphalt overlay on 16.6 kilometres of road that runs between Highway #2 and Highway #20.

##### **Multi-Use Outdoor Recreation Facility**

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$201,332 (pending environmental assessment)

Lacombe County will construct a new outdoor multi-use facility on the site of the existing outdoor skating rink in the Hamlet of Mirror. The new facility will provide year-round activities for all residents, especially youth.

## 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.
- The federal-provincial CAMRIF Agreement provides \$88 million each in federal and provincial funding for municipal infrastructure renewal, reflecting shared federal and provincial priorities. With matching one-third contributions from municipalities, total program funding will be at least \$264 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 \$1,760,000 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 first intake was July 31, 2006.
- Applications for the second intake will be accepted in Spring 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.

## **How to apply**

- 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 [www.camrif.ca](http://www.camrif.ca).
- Information about Government of Canada and Alberta's infrastructure programs is available at [www.infrastructure.gc.ca](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca) and [www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca](http://www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca).