
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 12, 2007

City of Calgary gets \$30 million for new heat and power energy system

Calgary, Alberta –The City of Calgary will have a new energy efficient power system with investments from the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

A combined federal/provincial investment of \$20 million will help with the first phase in developing a new “green” heat and power energy system for downtown Calgary. The new system will drive electric generators and provide electricity throughout the downtown core, considerably improving Calgary’s energy efficiency. Through CAMRIF, funding for this project will total more than \$30 million with the federal and provincial governments each contributing \$10 million, and the City of Calgary contributing \$11.8 million.

The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen’s Privy Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and Harvey Cenaiko, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo, on behalf of Luke Ouellette, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, made the joint announcement today.

“Canada’s New Government is working in partnership to get things done for Calgarians,” said Minister Prentice. “Today we are proud to announce that we are investing \$10 million for the development of a new ‘green’ heat and power energy system for downtown Calgary. When complete, this project is expected to result in significant greenhouse gas reduction.”

“The Government of Alberta is proud to contribute \$10 million to this project which will result in cleaner burning natural gas-fired electricity,” said MLA Cenaiko. “This project will help manage growth pressures in Calgary, improve Albertans’ quality of life and build a stronger Alberta – three of Premier Ed Stelmach’s five priorities.”

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"Calgary's Downtown District Energy project represents a true collaboration between federal, provincial and local government to promote sustainable energy solutions and build sustainable communities," said Dave Bronconnier, Mayor for the City of Calgary. "Over the next year, re-development in the Rivers District will begin, providing us the opportunity to implement district energy to heat, cool and eventually power a large number of buildings in the downtown. It's a very positive leap forward for the environment, and demonstrates the commitment to a Green Future by your federal, provincial and municipal governments."

The Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is a joint initiative between Canada's New Government and the Alberta Government that enables communities to address local infrastructure needs. Over the course of CAMRIF, the federal and provincial governments will contribute \$88 million in funding for municipal infrastructure renewal. With matching one-third contributions from municipalities, the funds will reach at least \$264 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 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 project is receiving funding under the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

City of Calgary

Calgary Downtown District Energy

Combined federal/provincial investment: \$20,000,000 (pending environmental assessment)

The project involves developing a combined heat and power district energy system in the downtown core of Calgary. Heat recovered from natural gas fired engines will be distributed to multiple buildings through a network of underground insulated piping in order to drive generators, thereby providing electricity. The proposed system will add value and increase efficiency of city centre energy resources.

The Calgary Downtown District Energy project is a multi-phase project involving the development of a heating and cooling plant located in the downtown core in Phase I together with a combined heat and power (CHP) co-generation energy plant located further from The City centre in Phase II.

The Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF) funding allows The City to proceed immediately with Phase I while it is expected Phase II will be completed by 2010.

When completed, the district energy system will provide space heating and cooling services through underground piping to existing buildings and new developments. The system is also expected to generate electricity for current and future use.

Calgary District Energy will be owned by The City of Calgary, with ENMAX — a wholly owned subsidiary of The City — developing and operating the thermal and co-generation plants and thermal distribution system. ENMAX would administer customer service and supply, customer billing and manage the district energy plant's electricity production on behalf of The City.

The downtown district energy plant and distribution system will be located to position the system to service current municipal-owned buildings and selected future downtown buildings. This project is integral to the future development of buildings in The Rivers.

The Calgary Downtown District Energy project also supports municipal sustainable development and provides the basis for integrated energy planning. The plant and distribution system will be completed and connected to customers by 2010.

The \$31.8 million project will be funded in partnership with the Governments of Canada and Alberta and The City of Calgary. The project was made possible through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF) and will be funded as follows:

The Government of Canada	\$10 million
The Province of Alberta	\$10 million
The City of Calgary	\$11.8 million (including other program expenses)
Total	\$31.8 million

The use of medium to low temperature district energy system technology is not in wide-spread use in downtown areas of major Canadian cities. The City of Calgary will be a western Canadian leader in the use of this technology.

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 or visit the website www.camrif.ca.
- Information about Government of Canada and Alberta's infrastructure programs is available at www.infrastructure.gc.ca and www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca.