
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2007

Federal-Provincial Governments Support Mayerthorpe Fallen Four Memorial Society Initiative that Pays Tribute to Peace Officers

Mayerthorpe, Alberta – Canada’s New Government and the Government of Alberta are joining forces to support the establishment of a Visitor Information Centre at the Mayerthorpe Fallen Four Memorial Park. This Centre will honour the four RCMP officers who lost their lives on March 3, 2005, as well as all peace officers across Canada who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification; and the Honourable Fred Lindsay, Alberta Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security with the Government of Alberta; made the joint announcement today.

Through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF), the federal and provincial governments are contributing a combined total of \$733,332 towards the Visitor Information Centre at the Mayerthorpe Fallen Four Memorial Park. This federal-provincial investment will be directed towards the development of the Information Centre at the park, surrounding landscaping and parking. The 3,000 square foot Information Centre will house a mini-museum, a donor-appreciation wall, a gift shop, tourist information and a public meeting room.

“The Visitor Information Centre will be a place where people can pay tribute to police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice, a place to remember the past and inspire hope for the future,” said Minister Ambrose. “Canadian families are safe in their communities thanks to the courage and compassion police officers show every day in the line of duty across the country. We salute them.”

“This centre will serve as a testimony to the professionalism, courage and bravery of the four RCMP officers who lost their lives near Mayerthorpe, and of all peace officers across Canada who have lost their lives while serving their community and their country,” said the Honourable Stockwell Day, federal Minister of Public Safety. “The Mayerthorpe tragedy reminds us of the dangers our police officers face as they attend to their duty of keeping our communities safe,” he added.

“The Alberta government is proud to support the Mayerthorpe Fallen Four Memorial Park. It is important that we honour and remember these four young, brave men as well as all police officers who have died in the line of duty,” said Minister Lindsay. “We owe a great debt of gratitude to the courageous and dedicated men and women who protect our homes and our families every day.”

“Thanks to the Governments of Canada and Alberta, we have an increased sense of financial security in this ambitious memorial project, which has always been a project of the heart,” said Margaret Thibault, Founding President of the Mayerthorpe Fallen Four Memorial Society. “We are particularly pleased that our two governments recognize this as a national monument of peace and hope, representing not just our four beloved officers, but all peace officers across Canada. With this announcement, the governments have made it possible for every person protected and served by peace officers to share in the project.”

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 project is receiving funding under the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

Mayerthorpe Fallen Four Society

Fallen Four Visitor Information Centre

Combined federal/provincial investment: \$733,332

CAMRIF funding will be directed towards the development of a Visitor Information Centre—a 3,000 square foot building housing tourist information, a gift shop, a mini-museum, a donor-appreciation wall, a public meeting room and washroom facilities. It will also support landscaping of the grounds surrounding the Visitor Information Centre and park, as well as a 20-stall paved parking lot.

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.