
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 3, 2007

Town of Edson receives \$6 million for clean drinking water

Edson, Alberta – Residents of the Town of Edson will benefit from a green municipal infrastructure project that will replace three kilometres of water mains under Highway 16 to ensure a reliable supply of clean drinking water.

A combined federal-provincial investment of \$6 million towards a green project will replace the existing water mains under Highway 16 to ensure a reliable water supply and distribution system, as well as improve fire protection by increasing the number of households served by hydrants. The new water mains will also allow for the resurfacing of the highway, reduce the frequency of water main breaks and minimize long-term operating costs for the Town of Edson.

Through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF), the federal and provincial governments will each contribute a total of \$3 million to the project.

Rob Merrifield, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, 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 Ivan Strang, MLA for West Yellowhead, 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 Edson," said MP Merrifield. "Today's investment of \$6 million will ensure clean drinking water and improve fire protection for homes in the area."

"This water main replacement project will improve the quality of life for people living in Edson, and it will make our community a safer place to live," said MLA Strang. "Improving Albertans' quality of life and providing safer communities are two of the government's five priorities identified by Premier Stelmach."

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.

-30-

Contacts:

Donna Kinley
Communications Manager
Western Economic Diversification
Canada
Edmonton, Alberta
Tel: (708) 495-6892

Jerry Bellikka
Communications Director
Alberta Infrastructure and
Transportation
Edmonton, Alberta
Tel: (780) 415-1841

Backgrounder

Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)

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

Town of Edson

Replacement of water mains under Highway 16 (Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway)

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

This green project will replace almost 3 kilometres of existing water mains under the highway. The 4" cast iron water mains, which contain lead joints that pose health concerns and do not provide any fire protection, will be replaced with 12" polyvinyl chloride (PVC) water mains to provide reliable water supply and fire protection for the highway corridor. The new water mains will also allow for the resurfacing of this portion of Highway 16.

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.