
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2007

**Spruce Grove residents will benefit from \$8.5 million for
a new cultural and recreation centre**

Spruce Grove, Alberta –Residents of the City of Spruce Grove will have a new outdoor-recreation and cultural facility with investments from the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

A combined federal/provincial investment of more than \$5.7 million will help the City of Spruce Grove in the first phase of development of a 22-acre outdoor soccer and football facility as well as a 60-acre cultural and special events venue. Through CAMRIF, funding for this project will total more than \$8.5 million with the federal, provincial and local governments each contributing more than \$2.8 million.

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology on behalf of 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 Spruce Grove," said Minister Ambrose. "Today's investment is just one example of the way we're delivering on our promise to make Canada's communities vibrant and productive places to live, work and raise families."

"The Government of Alberta is proud to contribute to this project," said Minister Horner. "Recreation and culture are important aspects of personal growth. This facility will improve Albertans' quality of life, one of Premier Ed Stelmach's five priorities."

"We are absolutely thrilled about this announcement. Spruce Grove has grown in population by over 30 per cent in the past five years and the West District/Jubilee Park project helps address the rapidly growing needs of our residents for outdoor recreational opportunities," said Mayor Ken Scott.

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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 each 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 Spruce Grove

West District Park Development

Combined federal/provincial investment: \$5,733,332 (pending environmental assessment)

This project includes the first phase of development of a 22-acre outdoor soccer/football facility and a 60-acre special events and cultural event venue.

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.