
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2008

Town of Banff receives \$6 million for new Community Centre

Banff, Alberta – The federal and provincial governments will invest \$6 million, pending an environmental assessment, towards Phase I of construction for a new community centre in the Town of Banff.

Myron Thompson, Member of Parliament for Wild Rose, 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 Janis Tarchuk, Minister of Children's Services and MLA for Banff-Cochrane, announced the funding today through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

"The construction of the new Banff Community Centre is an investment in the quality of life for the residents of Banff and the surrounding communities," said MP Thompson. "We are pleased to provide these communities with increased access to fitness, recreational and social opportunities through this long-term infrastructure investment."

The new community centre project will provide Banff residents with the opportunity to participate in programs that promote healthy living and community involvement. This new facility will be built using modern construction techniques and state-of-the-art technology and once completed, will have a lower demand for energy and decreased operational costs. The facility will also attract national and international events to this area.

"The new community centre will bring Banff area residents together for shared activities and events and help them lead healthy lifestyles," said Tarchuk. "Support for community facilities reflects Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity."

Under the initial CAMRIF Agreement signed in June 2006, the federal and provincial governments each committed \$88 million to the fund, with participating local governments expected to make up the remaining costs. This year, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have each provided an

additional \$19 million to CAMRIF as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs. The total amount available from CAMRIF, with federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in projects, is \$321 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, 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).

Town of Banff

Community Centre Phase I Project

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

This investment will be used for Phase I of construction for a new state-of-the-art, energy-efficient community centre that will replace the existing structure once Phase I is complete. Overwhelming community support for a new community centre is evidenced by attendance and feedback at workshops, meetings, open houses, letters of support, surveys, and through fund raising efforts. Phase I construction of the new community centre will address the needs of this community.

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.
- Under the initial CAMRIF Agreement signed in June 2006, the federal and provincial governments each committed \$88 million to the fund, with participating local governments expected to make up the remaining costs.
- This year, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have each provided an additional \$19 million to CAMRIF as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs.
- The total amount available from CAMRIF, with federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in projects, is \$321 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 \$724,584 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 second intake was May 31, 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.

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