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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 30, 2008

## Infrastructure investment brings energy-efficient upgrades to historic Calgary Public Building

**Calgary, Alberta** – The federal and provincial governments will support a retrofit project for the Calgary Public Building to improve its energy efficiency and preserve it as a historical landmark.

Lee Richardson, Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre, 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 Len Webber, MLA for Calgary-Foothills, announced the funding of more than \$3.8 million today through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

"The Government of Canada is proud to invest in this important historical landmark and help ensure its continued service to Calgary residents," said MP Richardson. "Today's announcement demonstrates our Government's commitment to provide efficient and modern infrastructure in our communities."

The Calgary Public Building, built in 1929, is still in use today. The renovations will make it 25 per cent more efficient than the national building code while decreasing heating costs. The upgrades will enable this historic building to continue to serve future generations of Calgary residents.

"The Alberta government is pleased the historic Calgary Public Building will not only be restored, but will also incorporate today's significantly higher environmental standards," said MLA Len Webber. "This retrofit project will enable the facility to continue to provide service to Albertans for many more years to come."

Prime Minister R.B. Bennett opened the Calgary Public Building on August 21, 1931. The classical detailing of the eight-storey Tyndall limestone-clad structure is typical of government architecture of the period. In 1979, the City of Calgary bought the building and adapted it to incorporate the Jack Singer Concert Hall as part of the Calgary Centre for the Performing Arts. The upper floors are occupied by City of Calgary offices. The old style brass elevators inside are the last manually operated ones in this province.

"The first phase in the proposed project is a clear demonstration of the City of Calgary's commitment to preserving the City's heritage buildings," said Sharon Purvis, Director of Corporate Properties & Buildings at the City of Calgary. "This project will reduce energy consumption, improve air quality, and position the building to take advantage of District Energy."

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. In April 2007, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta each provided an additional \$19 million to the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs. The total amount available from the 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).

#### **City of Calgary**

##### **Calgary Public Building**

Combined federal/provincial investment: \$3,809,200 (pending environmental assessment)

The project will assist with the renovation of the historic Calgary Public Building. These upgrades will make the building 25 per cent more efficient than the national building code.

The building was built in 1929 by the federal government and purchased by the City of Calgary in 1979. The building is still in use today. The Jack Singer Concert Hall, as part of the Calgary Centre for the Performing Arts, is at ground level. The upper floors are occupied by City of Calgary offices. The building also houses the last working manual old style brass elevators in this province. The building has been classified as a category 'A' historic building on the City's potential heritage sites.

## **Fact Sheet**

### **Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)**

#### **Partnership Program**

- The Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF) was 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 invested 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 the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs.
- The total amount available from the CAMRIF, with federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in projects, was \$321 million.
- CAMRIF was 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 targeted green infrastructure projects that contribute to community economic development and environmental quality of life. These included water, wastewater, solid waste, environmental energy improvements and public transit. The fund also invested in recreational infrastructure, tourism and cultural projects, local roads and broadband connectivity.
- At least 80 per cent of CAMRIF funding was dedicated to rural municipalities with a population of less than 250,000. The remaining 20 per cent was available to urban municipalities with a population greater than 250,000.

- A total of \$724,584 was also available to municipalities for Municipal Capacity Building (MCB) projects. Projects included, but were 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 developed the Management Committee guidelines and oversees the project review and selection process. Projects were 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](mailto: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/>.