

***Canada-British Columbia  
BUILDING CANADA FUND  
- Communities Component***

Category Specific Supplement

**CONNECTIVITY & BROADBAND**

March 2009

**Canada**



## **CONNECTIVITY AND BROADBAND**

### **BUILDING CANADA FUND - COMMUNITIES COMPONENT**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

To construct or materially rehabilitate public infrastructure that results in at least one of the following:

- Improves the delivery of public services, such as government services, education, and health; and
- Improves quality of life, social development, reduces travel requirements, and increases the potential for innovation and economic development by connecting Canadians, particularly in rural and remote communities.

#### **SUBCATEGORIES**

- High-speed backbone.
- Point of presence.
- Local distribution within communities.
- Satellite capacity.

#### **PROJECT OUTCOMES**

- Provides broadband access to a greater number of residents, businesses, and/or institutions in Canadian communities that results in at least one of the following:
  - increases their ability to participate in economic development through online marketing and e-commerce;
  - improves their access to employment and learning opportunities;
  - furthers opportunities for civic engagement and social development, including promotion of culture and minority languages; and
  - allows governments to provide services more effectively and efficiently, including health services.

#### **PROGRAM CRITERIA**

Through your application, you must demonstrate the following:

- The project is supported by a comprehensive, credible and feasible business case that outlines the costs and benefits of the proposed project. *(Please note that the application form will set out information requirements regarding project costing, ongoing operation and maintenance, engineering, technology, project management and governance)*
- How the project is consistent with applicable provincial, regional, or municipal plans (e.g., land-use, integrated watershed management plan, municipal official plans, Integrated Community Sustainability Plans).

- That the project will meet all applicable legislative or regulatory requirements, including the requirement for a federal Environmental Assessment process that meets the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, which may include specific requirements for aboriginal consultation.
- That the contract award process will be competitive, fair and transparent (e.g., no sole-source contracts, no union-only processes).
- That major risks related to extreme natural events and/or climate change risks with a potential impact on the project during construction or once completed have been considered, and, where applicable, a mitigation plan developed.
- That infrastructure intended for use by the public ensures appropriate access for persons with disabilities.
- That opportunities regarding a regional service area or other cooperative arrangements, particularly with First Nations communities, have been considered, as appropriate, in respect of the project.

### **PROJECT CRITERIA**

- The project uses technological solutions that are appropriate, reasonable and available.
- The proponent must promote competitiveness by conducting a commercially and technologically neutral Request For Proposal, or provide an appropriate level of justification of why this is not feasible.
- The project must provide for third party open access.
- The project must be based on a practical needs assessment and is scalable to realistically meet future needs.
- Provides broadband connectivity to currently unserved communities.
- The project will help promote cultural diversity and/or minority languages.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

The following are examples of information that must be submitted to help support and strengthen the business case for your project.

- Project Drawings
- Detailed project cost breakdown including quotes or cost estimates
- Confirmation of sources of project funds, i.e., bank statements, approved bank loan documentation, letters of commitment (or copies of cheques) from funding contributors, approved referendum (or a council resolution to hold a referendum to borrow for the project).
- Approvals of land use required prior to construction proceeding, i.e. Agricultural Land Reserve, right of ways, federal and/or provincial assets, etc.
- Land lease agreement, if applicable
- Current 5 year financial plan
- Information on measurable project benefits
- Letters of support, if available

- Short term employment hours during construction & creation of full time permanent jobs (job title), if applicable;
- Details on the incremental impact of funding (e.g.: should BCF-CC funding not forthcoming, would the project be reduced, delayed (months/years) or not proceed.
- Details on how the project will minimize the negative impacts on the environment? Will it reduce ongoing energy consumption and/or water consumption and/or waste compared to the existing infrastructure? Will it encourage recycling? Will it use recognized green materials in the construction or improvement of the infrastructure?
- Details on how the project will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions through best practices and new approaches and/or innovative technologies during the construction and operation of the infrastructure and where applicable, will they be reduced and by how much?

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

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Additional resources can be found on the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component website: [www.bcbuildingcanadafundcommunities.ca](http://www.bcbuildingcanadafundcommunities.ca)

The Shared Information Management System for Infrastructure (SIMSI) on-line application, can be found at: <https://bcfcc-fccvc.infrastructure.gc.ca/>

To be assigned a username and password to access the SIMSI on-line application system, please forward a request to [Infra@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Infra@gov.bc.ca).