
BACKGROUND

2007CS0041-000929
July 20, 2007

Ministry of Community Services
Western Economic Diversification Canada
Ministry of Economic Development

CANADA-B.C. MRIF FUNDING BENEFITS NORTHWEST B.C.

On July 20, 2007, the federal and provincial governments announced more than \$5.6 million in combined funding for three projects, under the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

SMITHERS:

- The Town of Smithers will receive \$2 million in funding for the extension of a runway at the Smithers Regional Airport, from the current total of 5,000 feet to 7,500 feet. The project will include additions such as blast pads, infield grading, the application of new markings, and the relocation of the runway lights.

HOUSTON:

- The District of Houston will receive \$1.578 million in funding to assist with the year-round operation of the Claude Parish Memorial Arena and other recreational facilities by developing a district GeoExchange heating and cooling system. The system will direct the wasted heat from the ice making process to the district heating system. Upgrades during the first phase of the project will allow Houston to reduce and possibly eliminate the use of natural gas in the arena and pool facilities. It is estimated these improvements will reduce greenhouse gases by approximately 125 tonnes and drinking water usage by 225,000 cubic metres. This project is conditionally approved pending completion of an environmental assessment.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KITIMAT-STIKINE:

- The Regional District will receive \$2.066 million in funding to help extend the City of Terrace's water system to North Terrace and Brauns Island by installing more than eight km of drinking water main and 31 fire hydrants. These upgrades will bring safe and reliable drinking water to approximately 500 people. This project is conditionally approved pending completion of an environmental assessment.

-30-

Media contact: Karl Yeh
Western Economic Diversification
Canada
604 666-4714

Marc Black
B.C. Ministry of Community Services
250 356-6334

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.