

For Immediate Release
2007CS0046-000942
July 23, 2007

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

DAWSON CREEK CITY HALL GOES GREEN WITH INVESTMENTS

DAWSON CREEK – A grant of more than \$400,000 from the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF) will support Dawson Creek’s efforts as a leader in energy conservation, Prince George Peace River MP Jay Hill and Peace River South MLA Blair Lekstrom announced.

“Canada’s New Government recognizes the importance of strong communities and is committed to improving Canada’s infrastructure,” said Hill. “This investment of more than \$400,000 will provide Dawson Creek with modern amenities that will help the community prosper, while contributing to a cleaner local environment.”

The \$416,660 in combined federal and provincial funding will help improve energy efficiency at Dawson Creek City Hall by installing energy efficient lighting, air conditioning system and building a new insulated roof. It is estimated these upgrades will improve the air quality and temperature within city hall, helping Dawson Creek save almost \$8,000 in yearly energy expenditures and reduce greenhouse gasses by 43 tonnes per year.

“Our government has been clear that combating climate change is one of our top priorities and much of this year’s throne speech was dedicated to our environmental agenda. Our province is leading the way for environmental sustainability and I am very proud of our commitment to this initiative,” said Lekstrom. “I’d like to commend the city for taking steps to be leaders locally.”

“We are very appreciative of the government’s support and recognition of our commitment to addressing climate change at the community level,” said Dawson Creek Mayor Calvin Kruk. “This project is part of an integrated strategy with the goal of reducing our energy costs and green house gas emissions.”

Under the initial CBCMRIF Agreement signed in June 2006, the federal and provincial governments each committed \$51 million to the fund, with participating local governments expected to match this amount. This year, Canada’s New Government and the Province of B.C. have each provided an additional \$23.5 million to the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs. This additional funding brings the total federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in CBCMRIF projects to over \$220 million.

The majority of the funding is targeted towards communities of fewer than 250,000 people and at least 60 per cent of the funding will assist with green projects such as drinking water supply, treatment and distribution needs as well as wastewater and energy efficiency projects. The remaining funds will be dedicated to other projects like tourism, recreation and other infrastructure.

More details on the program are available through the Canada-British Columbia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund website, at www.canadabcmrif.ca.

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

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

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