

For Immediate Release
2007CS0047-000956
July 25, 2007

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

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING IMPROVES WATER QUALITY

VALEMOUNT – The communities of Valemount and Loon Lake are the latest recipients of federal and provincial funding aimed at improving drinking water quality, Betty Hinton, MP for Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo and Shirley Bond, Deputy Premier and MLA for Prince George-Mount Robson, said today in announcing nearly \$2 million in combined funding from the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF).

The Village of Valemount will receive more than \$1.93 million to construct a drinking water treatment system that includes a new filtration plant and building, associated piping and electrical works and the installation of a low lift pump.

“Canada’s New Government is getting things done for British Columbians by investing in clean and accessible drinking water,” said Hinton, who made the announcement on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen’s Privy Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Minister of Western Economic Diversification. “Today’s announcement of nearly \$2 million is helping to build healthy, clean and prosperous communities in the Village of Valemount and the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.”

“Few things are more important to a community than ensuring it has access to a healthy supply of clean water,” said Bond. “This Infrastructure Fund was created specifically to help municipalities with the costs of necessary upgrades, and I am very pleased to see some of this funding going to smaller communities like Valemount whose needs are just as important as larger centres.”

Hinton and Bond also announced today the Thompson-Nicola Regional District would receive \$54,166 from CBCMRIF for upgrades to the Loon Lake community water system, providing more than 120 residents with improved quality drinking water and fire protection.

The projects are conditionally approved pending the completion of an environmental assessment.

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 CBCMRIF 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.

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