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

PARKSVILLE BENEFITS FROM IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

PARKSVILLE – The community of Parksville will enjoy cleaner, more reliable water, thanks to a joint investment of \$452,000 from Canada’s New Government and the Province of British Columbia, through the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF).

Nanaimo-Alberni MP James Lunney, 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 Ron Cantelon, MLA for Nanaimo-Parksville, on behalf of Community Services Minister Ida Chong, announced the funding today.

“Through collaboration and partnership, the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is helping build healthier and more prosperous communities in British Columbia,” said Lunney. “Today’s investment of more than \$450,000 will benefit the entire community by providing safer drinking water for Parksville residents.”

The federal-provincial funding will help the City drill two new deep wells, eliminate potential sources of water contamination and create a reliable source of drinking water for the entire community. This project is conditionally approved pending the completion of an environmental assessment.

“Every level of government recognizes the necessity of providing a quality water supply to our constituents,” added Cantelon. “That is why our respective governments have worked together to share the cost load of this necessary project for Parksville.”

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 CBCMRIF 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 less 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. 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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