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

FUNDS ENHANCE RENEWABLE ENERGY IN NORTH VANCOUVER

NORTH VANCOUVER – The City of North Vancouver will take a greener approach to renewable energy thanks to more than \$204,000 from the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF), James Moore, MP for Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam, and Katherine Whittred, MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale, announced today.

The funding will enable the City to build 120 solar hot water panels on the top of the new municipal library, creating 283,635 kWh of renewable energy. The energy created by these panels will supplement the district hot water heating system, which is fuelled by natural gas. A number of buildings in the City of North Vancouver use the district heating system. The City has been granted several awards for its approach to renewable, sustainable energy, including a gold certification under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) system.

“This project will create an alternative energy source for the City of North Vancouver’s district heating system and reduce the community’s reliance on traditional energy sources, including fossil fuels,” said MP Moore, 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. “Through collaboration and partnership, the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is building a healthier and more prosperous community for residents of the City of North Vancouver.”

“The City of North Vancouver has enthusiastically embraced green solutions for its infrastructure projects,” said Whittred. “We applaud and support the City’s efforts and are pleased that our funding partnership between all levels of government can make innovative projects like this one a reality.”

“This funding contribution from our provincial and federal partners supports the City’s commitment to incorporate sustainable solutions into new capital projects,” said Mayor Darrell Mussatto. “We are very pleased to further develop our green energy initiatives as part of our exciting new Library and Civic Centre development.”

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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