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

\$2 MILLION TO REPAIR, UPGRADE CAMERON STREET BRIDGE

PRINCE GEORGE – The federal and provincial governments are investing \$2 million to repair and upgrade Prince George’s Cameron Street Bridge, improving access for pedestrians and cyclists. The Honourable Jay Hill, MP for Prince George-Peace River, and Shirley Bond, Deputy Premier and MLA for Prince George-Mount Robson, announced the contribution from the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF) today.

“Reopening the Cameron Street Bridge will reduce congestion, and reduce fuel consumption and gas emissions for Prince George’s industry and community traffic,” said Hill 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 in Prince George.”

The funding enables the City of Prince George to replace sections of the timber-truss bridge, which was closed in late 2005. The project will see construction of a new superstructure, rehabilitation of existing supports and upgraded bridge approaches. The bridge will include two lanes for traffic, shoulders on both sides, and a two metre-wide sidewalk for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. This project is conditionally approved pending the completion of an environmental assessment.

“Through this partnership between all levels of government, we will see this 75-year-old bridge repaired and reopened,” said Bond. “The new, improved bridge will mean new options for walkers, cyclists and other commuters, and reduced traffic through residential zones.”

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 make up the remaining costs. 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.

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