



NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

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

\$3.4 MILLION FOR LIBRARIES IN KAMLOOPS AND 100 MILE HOUSE

KAMLOOPS – A joint investment of \$3.4 million from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia will help to build a new library for Kamloops and help to upgrade the library in 100 Mile House. The funding is provided through the Canada-B.C. Municipal Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF), which supports the continued growth of communities across B.C. as healthier, greener and more sustainable places to live.

The announcement was made today by Betty Hinton, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Member of Parliament for Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo and Claude Richmond, Minister of Employment and Income Assistance and MLA for Kamloops.

The Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD) will receive \$2 million to build a new 1,850 square metre library, which will include a computer lab, reading garden and art gallery space. The new library doubles the size of existing library facilities and consolidates Kamloops' library services into one location.

In addition, the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) will receive more than \$1.4 million to expand the existing 100 Mile House Library. The upgrades include a new mezzanine, multi-purpose rooms, reading lounges, parking stalls and on-line public access catalogue stations. The library expansion will fully integrate the existing facility into one building that will better serve the public.

“This investment will enable the residents of Kamloops and 100 Mile House to have access to library facilities that meet their communities' growing needs,” said Hinton, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queens Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification. “Our government is proud to partner with the Province of British Columbia to make long-term infrastructure improvements in Kamloops and the Cariboo Regional District.”

“These infrastructure improvements ensure our families have access to modernized, accessible libraries,” said Richmond. “We are very pleased to provide funds that will double the size of these facilities and support literacy, one of our government's five great goals.”

“I'm pleased that our government is meeting the needs of vibrant and growing communities,” said Kevin Krueger, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson. “These infrastructure improvements support education and enhance community services while contributing to the vitality of the areas.”

“The new library will be a vibrant facility which will be more accessible and will provide more programming and book collection space,” said Peter Milobar, TNRD Chair. “It will assist in the revitalization and redevelopment of the City of Kamloops’ north shore and will also serve the regional population as the new headquarters for the regional district’s bookmobile service. This new facility will also help meet one of the province’s top social goals—literacy.”

“The expansion of the CRD’s 100 Mile House Library is an important project to all residents of the South Cariboo on many levels,” stated CRD Chair Jon Wolbers. “The facility will be built from Mountain Pine Beetle killed trees in a log house style, and will be a welcoming centre for learning and entertainment as we continue to improve literacy across the region.”

Launched in June 2006, the majority of the CBCMRIF program funding supports communities of fewer than 250,000 people to minimize the costs to taxpayers of local infrastructure upgrades or new construction projects.

At least 60 per cent of the funding will assist with “green projects,” and are geared towards enhancing environmental sustainability, such as water and waste-water systems, public transit and environmental energy improvements. Other infrastructure projects will support local roads, cultural and recreational facilities, infrastructure to support tourism and broadband connectivity. The funding for this project is conditionally approved pending the successful completion of an environmental assessment.

The total amount available through the CBCMRIF, with federal and provincial investments and matching local government contribution, is over \$220 million. More details on the program are available online at www.canadabcmrif.ca.

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