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

## **ABBOTSFORD TO BENEFIT FROM WATER TREATMENT UPGRADE**

ABBOTSFORD – The City of Abbotsford will replace an outdated wastewater treatment system with a larger, more efficient system, thanks to a \$2.17-million investment from the federal and provincial governments. The funding is provided through the Canada B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF), supporting the continued growth of B.C. communities as greener, healthier and more sustainable places to live.

The announcement was made today by Ed Fast, Member of Parliament for Abbotsford and John van Dongen, MLA for Abbotsford-Clayburn and Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations.

“The current system at the wastewater treatment facility is running at full capacity and has reached the end of its lifespan. The new system will operate more efficiently, improve safety and water quality, and significantly reduce operating costs,” said Fast, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queens Privy Council for Canada, Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification. “Through investments such as this, we are delivering on our promise to help communities become vibrant and productive places to live, work and raise families.”

Nearly a quarter million people in the communities of Abbotsford, Mission and Langley will benefit from improvements to the James Treatment Plant, which includes purchase and installation of two new centrifuges to be used in the bio-solids and sludge dewatering process.

“I’m pleased that the federal government has agreed to partner with the Province and the City to fund this important project. This wastewater treatment system upgrade will enable Abbotsford and neighbouring communities to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population,” said van Dongen. “Our two senior governments recognize the need to support local communities with infrastructure that maintains a healthy, clean environment and protects the Fraser River ecosystem.”

“Abbotsford, Mission and Langley are among the fastest growing communities in Canada. It is essential that our wastewater treatment infrastructure can accommodate this growth in a sustainable manner,” said Mayor George Ferguson, City of Abbotsford. “This investment will reduce James Treatment Plant greenhouse gas emissions by one third. This project is an example of a healthy partnership with the Federal Government and the Province of British Columbia to meet local needs.”

The majority of the program funding from the CBCMRIF, which was launched in June 2006, supports communities of fewer than 250,000 people in minimizing 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” that 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](http://www.canadabcmrif.ca).

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