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

\$4M TO IMPROVE SAFETY OF BELCARRA'S NEW WATER SYSTEM

BELCARRA – A federal and provincial investment of approximately \$4 million will provide residents of Belcarra with a safer, more reliable source of water from the Greater Vancouver Water District. This funding will be provided through the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF), which supports the continued growth of B.C. communities as greener, healthier and more sustainable places to live.

The announcement was made today by James Moore, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics and MP for Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam, and Iain Black, MLA for Port Moody-Westwood.

“Today’s infrastructure investment will replace existing individual and shared water wells, so that Belcarra residents have a reliable supply of clean drinking water,” said 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. “Our government is proud to partner with the Province of British Columbia to make long-term infrastructure improvements to Belcarra.”

Over the past several years, increasing demands on the aquifer that supplies Belcarra’s potable water has led to a higher risk of contamination. The project will immediately enhance the safety and reliability of the community’s drinking water, which means Belcarra residents will no longer have to rely on private and shared wells.

“As the mayor and council have repeatedly identified this project as the highest priority for Belcarra, I am delighted with this positive announcement,” said Black. “This is a terrific example of how the B.C. government supports smaller communities building infrastructure to maintain their quality of life, support expansion and respect local ecosystems.”

Approximately 700 Belcarra residents, together with a Metro Vancouver park and the Sasamat Outdoor Centre, will gain access to water supplied by the Greater Vancouver Water District. An additional 4.2 km of water main will complete the Belcarra distribution system, which will include 22 fire hydrants and connections for 265 lots.

“This project will make a tremendous difference to the health and sustainability of the community. Belcarra’s drinking water supply has been a concern for some time, and it’s only through the partnership funding that we’re able to make this a reality,” said Belcarra Mayor Ralph Drew. “Our council and community are grateful to MLA Black and MP Moore for their focused and relentless support of a project so crucial to our community.”

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.

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