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

\$1.1M INVESTMENT BOOSTS KOOTENAY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

NELSON – A federal and provincial investment of more than \$1.1 million, through the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF), will support vital green infrastructure improvements in two Kootenay communities, Nelson and Slocan. The CBCMRIF helps communities across B.C. become healthier, greener and more sustainable places to live.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Jim Abbott, parliamentary secretary to the minister of Canadian Heritage and member of parliament for Kootenay-Columbia, for the federal government and on behalf of Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services.

“The Government of Canada is proud to invest in these projects, which contribute to greener and healthier communities,” said Abbott on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, president of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister for 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 Nelson and Slocan.”

Nelson will receive more than \$1 million to improve its water distribution system. Renewing system parts will help eliminate leaks, reduce operation and maintenance costs, and ensure a reliable flow of potable water to Nelson's 9,258 residents.

Slocan will receive \$136,000 to retrofit its municipal hall to conserve energy and improve efficiencies. Upgrades will include installation of a geothermal heat pump for heating and cooling, the addition of high-density insulation and landscaping improvements to reduce wind and weather impacts.

“These projects will make a tremendous difference to the health and sustainability of these communities and it's only through our partnership funding that we're able to make these projects a reality,” said Chong. “We're pleased to support Nelson and Slocan, and other smaller communities, with infrastructure that makes a real difference to the residents' quality of life.”

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 toward 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. Funding for these projects 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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