

For Immediate Release
2008CS0017-000068
Jan. 21, 2008

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

RESIDENTS OF KEREMEOS BENEFIT FROM SEWER EXTENSION

KEREMEOS – A federal and provincial investment of more than \$685,000 will help Keremeos extend its sewer to the Upper Bench area, helping to protect the community’s water supply from risk of contamination. The funding is being provided through the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF), which enables communities across B.C. to become healthier, greener and more sustainable places to live.

The announcement was made today by Ed Fast, MP for Abbotsford, and Rick Thorpe, Okanagan-Westside MLA and Minister of Small Business and Revenue and Minister responsible for Regulatory Reform.

“This project will expand water services and improve its quality for residents of Keremeos,” said Fast 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. “By funding projects such as this, we are delivering on our promise to help communities grow as vibrant and productive places to live, work and raise families.”

Approximately 250 people will benefit from the sewer extension, which includes a new pump station, 1.2 kilometres of sewer pipe, manholes, inspection chambers and service connections. Improved septic systems will also protect the community’s drinking water wells.

“There is nothing more important to a thriving community than a clean, reliable source of drinking water and we’re pleased, through this project, to be protecting that resource,” said Thorpe, on behalf of Community Services Minister Ida Chong. “This project will make a tremendous difference to the health and sustainability of the community by removing threats to the groundwater wells that supply the community’s drinking water.”

“The Village of Keremeos is very pleased to participate with both the federal and provincial governments in a joint venture to reduce the number of aging septic systems in the easterly section of the municipality in the proximity of the Keremeos Irrigation District’s well,” said Keremeos Mayor Walter Despot. “This sewer service extension will allow our municipality to further protect our drinking water source and allow us to continue expanding our waste water collection system.”

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, 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.

Media contact: Karl Yeh
Western Economic Diversification
Canada
604 666-4714

Marc Black
B.C. Ministry of Community Services
250 356-6334

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province’s news feeds using RSS, visit the Province’s website at www.gov.bc.ca.