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

### **\$3.4 MILLION FOR SURREY RECREATION FACILITIES**

SURREY – The City of Surrey will expand the Newton Recreation Centre, build a synthetic sports field and expand the field house in Newton Athletic Park, thanks to an investment of more than \$3.4 million from the federal and provincial governments. The funding is 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 Nina Grewal, MP for Fleetwood-Port Kells, and Dave Hayer, MLA for Surrey-Tynehead.

“Our government’s investment will give Surrey residents more access to recreational facilities, helping children and adults take part in a wide variety of activities that promote better health and fitness,” said Grewal 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 helping Surrey improve its recreation infrastructure, we are delivering on our promise to help communities grow as vibrant and productive places to live, work and raise families.”

Approximately 21,600 people, including 16,000 registered soccer players, will benefit from a \$1.4-million investment in a new year-round playing surface for the community. Improvements include a 110-metre-by-70-metre synthetic sports field, and an 85-square-metre expansion of the field house. Synthetic sports fields are seldom closed due to weather, and are more environmentally friendly than grass fields that require fertilizer and constant watering. The refurbished field house will provide additional change rooms and washrooms, and will feature energy-efficient lighting, heating and insulation.

Surrey will also receive nearly \$2 million to expand the Newton Recreation Centre, including a new 570-square-metre multi-purpose gymnasium, washrooms, electrical and mechanical rooms and storage space. The addition will deliver a 30 per cent increase in community recreational programs, social events and activities for youth.

“These projects will make a tremendous difference to the health and well-being of residents,” said Hayer, on behalf of Community Services Minister Ida Chong. “We’re pleased to support Surrey and other communities with infrastructure upgrades that allow people to be more active and fit.”

“As the fastest growing and youngest city in B.C., this new infrastructure is essential to allow us to continue providing our residents with top notch athletic and recreational facilities,” said Mayor Dianne Watts. “These facilities will continue to provide our residents with the best possible opportunities to enjoy healthy and active lives.”

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](http://www.canadabcmrif.ca).

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