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

GOVERNMENTS FUND SAFER DRINKING WATER FOR DODGE COVE

PRINCE RUPERT – More than \$533,000 in federal and provincial funding will go toward helping the Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District improve Dodge Cove’s drinking water quality, and eliminate a long-standing boil water advisory. 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 the Honourable Jay Hill, Secretary of State, Chief Government Whip and MP for Prince George-Peace River, and Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services.

The infrastructure improvements will deliver upgraded water treatment facilities, a standby power source, and new mechanical and electrical components for Dodge Cove’s water supply system. The goal of the project is to eliminate the need for boil water advisories, which have been in place since March 1988.

“This initiative will improve the efficiency and reliability of the water treatment facility and end long-standing boil water restrictions that have affected the community,” said Hill, 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. “This joint funding will enable residents of Dodge Cove to have better access to safe, clean drinking water.”

“It is imperative that B.C. communities have access to safe and healthy drinking water, which is why our government is committed to investing in projects like this,” said Chong. “It is through our partnership with the federal government and the Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District that we are able to make this important improvement for area residents.”

“This project will go a long ways toward improving quality of life for the residents of Dodge Cove,” said Barry Pages, chair of the Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District. “We thank the federal and provincial governments for this partnership investment made through the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure fund.”

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.

Media contact: Jackie Stewart
Western Economic Diversification
Canada
604 666-1306

Marc Black
B.C. Ministry of Community Services
250 387-4089

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