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

\$3.8 MILLION FOR NEW DRINKING WATER SYSTEM IN OLIVER

OLIVER – More than \$3.8 million in federal and provincial government funding is being committed to provide a safe, reliable source of water for the residents of Oliver.

The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety and MP for Okanagan-Coquihalla, and Bill Barisoff, MLA for Penticton-Okanagan Valley, announced the investment from the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF) today.

“There are few things more important to a community than its water supply. This new system will provide a clean, consistent and dependable water source for the Town of Oliver,” said Day, 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. “The Government of Canada is proud to partner with the Province of British Columbia to deliver on our promise to help communities become more vibrant and productive places to live, work and raise families.”

The funding will allow the Town of Oliver to construct phase two of its Rural Water Twinning Project – a domestic water distribution system to be supplied by a new groundwater source. In addition to a new well, the project will deliver 15.7 km of water main, 218 service connections, and 2,200 water meters. As a result, drinking water quality will improve and Oliver will gain a dependable water system to help it continue building as a prosperous and thriving community.

“All B.C. communities should have access to safe and clean drinking water,” said Barisoff. “Your government is committed to investing in environmentally sustainable infrastructure, and are pleased to partner with the federal government and the Town of Oliver to see this project become a reality.”

“We pride ourselves on building infrastructure projects that are good for the environment and good for the health and well-being of our residents,” said Mayor Ron Hovanes. “Support from the federal and provincial governments on this water project will go a long way to help us deliver clean and safe water to rural residents.”

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
604 671-9031

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

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