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

### **ENERGY EFFICIENT UPGRADES FOR QUESNEL ARTS CENTRE**

QUESNEL – The City of Quesnel and the Cariboo Regional District will be able to improve the Arts and Recreation Centre, thanks to an investment of nearly \$260,000 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 Dick Harris, MP for Cariboo-Prince George, and John Rustad, MLA for Prince George-Omineca.

“Improvements to the building will reduce the Centre’s operating costs, allowing it to invest savings towards maintaining and expanding community programs,” said Harris, 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. “Our government is proud to partner with the Province of British Columbia to help Quesnel grow as a healthier and more sustainable community.”

“This retrofit will make Quesnel’s Arts and Recreation Centre 25 per cent more efficient than the national building code while decreasing heating fuel costs and reducing greenhouse gases and CO2 emissions,” said Rustad, on behalf of Community Services Minister Ida Chong. “These changes will make a tremendous difference to the health and sustainability of the community, and it’s only through our partnership funding that we’re able to make this a reality.”

By improving energy efficiencies, the recreational centre will reduce its environmental footprint and generate annual savings of approximately \$69,000. The retrofit will also reduce the relative humidity levels within the facility and improve longevity of the swimming pool.

“Quesnel is renowned for its rich heritage, vibrant arts community and active recreation programming,” said City of Quesnel Mayor Nate Bello. “This funding from CBCMRIF will provide us with a tremendous opportunity to continue to improve efficiencies in the operation of the Arts and Recreation Centre, while incorporating environmentally friendly business practices.”

“The Cariboo Regional District is committed to providing its residents with the best possible services in a cost-effective manner,” stated North Cariboo Rural Caucus chair Ted Armstrong. “By incorporating new technologies, such as the energy retrofit equipment, we will ensure that facilities such as the Quesnel Arts and Recreation Centre are sustainable for now and for future generations.”

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. 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 through the CBCMRIF website at [www.canadabcmrif.ca](http://www.canadabcmrif.ca).

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