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Office of the Premier
Ministry of Community Services
Western Economic Diversification Canada

WEST KOOTENAY BENEFITS FROM INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

NELSON – The communities of Warfield, Grand Forks, Greenwood and Rossland will benefit from better roads, water and wastewater systems, thanks to an investment from the federal and provincial governments. The funding is provided through the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF), which enables communities to become healthier, greener and more sustainable places to live.

Federal and provincial funding of more than \$3.6 million was announced today by Premier Gordon Campbell and the Honourable Jim Abbott, Parliamentary Secretary for Canadian Heritage and MP for Kootenay-Columbia, 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.

“These four communities in the West Kootenay will see tremendous improvements to their infrastructure projects, thanks to the funding from both of our governments,” said Campbell. “Supporting these kinds of local projects is extremely important across British Columbia as we all work to improve our environment and make our communities the best they can be.”

“These investments will improve water quality and road safety for West Kootenay residents,” said Abbott. “The Government of Canada is proud to partner with the Province of British Columbia to make lasting improvements to the infrastructure in our communities.”

The Village of Warfield will receive federal and provincial funding totalling more than \$2.5 million toward the construction of a new water supply system that pumps water from the Columbia River to a water treatment facility. The new pumping system and tank will enable the municipality to take control of its own water system and ensure a safe, reliable supply of drinking water for approximately 1,800 Warfield residents.

“With this funding, the village can begin to move through a three-stage program towards developing its own water supply system,” said Jim Nelson, mayor of the Village of Warfield. “A reliable source of potable water is essential to the Village of Warfield and, by continuing to work with Teck Cominco, we are confident we can bring this vital water supply issue to resolution.”

The City of Grand Forks will receive a joint investment of more than \$586,000 from the federal and provincial governments to build a new lift station, which will eliminate untreated wastewater discharge into the Kettle River caused by seasonally high water levels. The new lift station will also house a small-scale, innovative heat recovery system that uses wastewater to heat the service building and new public restrooms.

“I’m delighted that this funding has been provided to improve a key infrastructure in our community, which ensures a safe and reliable collection of waste water and helps protect the natural beauty of the Kettle River,” said Neil Krog, mayor of the City of Grand Forks. “This funding from the federal government and the Province of British Columbia will help resolve long-term environmental issues for Grand Forks and downstream communities.”

The City of Greenwood will receive joint funding of more than \$190,000 to refurbish nearly 186 square metres of damaged pavement and seal coat 14.2 kilometres of streets within the municipality. These improvements are critical for vehicle and pedestrian traffic safety.

“On behalf of the City of Greenwood, our sincere thanks to the federal and provincial governments for approval of our funding application to pave and seal coat our city streets,” said Colleen Lang, mayor of the City of Greenwood. “This means we can improve the quality of Greenwood’s roads and ensure the safety of vehicles and pedestrians in our community.”

More than \$345,000 in funding will help the City of Rossland to improve the upper Murphy Creek intake system. This includes cleaning of the pond behind a concrete dam, refurbishing of the concrete, installation of a new intake screen and upgrading the area’s access road. Approximately 1,440 households in Rossland will benefit from these improvements.

“This investment to upgrade the upper Murphy Creek intake will make a significant contribution to the health and wellness of our local community,” said Gordon Smith, mayor of the City of Rossland. “Rossland will have access to a safer and more reliable source of water, which will also support the communities continued efforts towards achieving sustainable economic development.”

The majority of the program funding from the CBCMRIF, which was launched in June 2006, supports communities of fewer than 250,000 people. It helps minimize 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 contributions, is over \$220 million. More details on the program are available online at www.canadabcmrif.ca.

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