

For Immediate Release
2008CS0062-000577
April 21, 2008

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

\$1.27 MILLION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES IN PORT HARDY

PORT HARDY – The federal and provincial governments are investing in two infrastructure projects that will improve the wastewater system for residents of Port Hardy and support the community’s new salmon stewardship centre.

The announcement of more than \$1.27 million was made today by Randy Kamp, MP for Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge-Mission and the Honourable Colin Hansen, Minister of Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative and the Olympics. 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 new salmon stewardship centre will both educate and emphasize the importance of salmon to North Island communities, and the upgrades to pump stations will ensure reliable, high-quality wastewater treatment for Port Hardy residents,” said Kamp, 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 investments are concrete examples of our government’s commitment to build and modernize Canada’s infrastructure in communities like Port Hardy.”

The federal and provincial governments are investing nearly \$820,000 toward improvements to Port Hardy’s wastewater lift station. About 3,750 residents will benefit from this project, which involves replacing the existing Central Street pump station and upgrading nine additional pump stations.

A second investment of more than \$450,000 will enable Port Hardy to build the Quatse Salmon Stewardship Centre, a new 400-square-metre facility that will educate and emphasize the importance of salmon to the North Island communities through the expansion and improvement of its current educational programs. The centre is designed to maximize energy efficiency and improve accessibility for visitors. It will include an interpretive centre, hatchery administration offices, a multi-purpose room and laboratories. Approximately 1,000 tourists per year are expected to visit the community and increase their stay as a result of the new centre.

“A sustainable wastewater system for Port Hardy is vital to the health of the community and the health of our environment, while the salmon centre is a key attraction and educational resource for visitors,” said Hansen. “We’re pleased to be supporting these projects and help this community to be even more vibrant and sustainable.”

“The contribution from MRIF will upgrade two of our oldest and most important sewer lift stations in the community,” said Mayor Hank Bood, District of Port Hardy. “Energy efficient pumps, emergency stand-by power hook-ups, and connection to our SCADA system at the wastewater treatment plant will help modernize our system of lift stations. We thank the federal and provincial governments for this important contribution.”

“We are delighted to be receiving this invaluable support from the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund,” said Grant Anderson, chairman of the North Vancouver Island Salmonid Enhancement Association. “These funds will ensure that the existing hatchery will be improved upon, and that construction of a valuable community stewardship facility can proceed this year. Residents of and visitors to northern Vancouver Island will realize the short and long-term benefits of building an environmentally sound centre that offers educational, research and enhancement opportunities.”

Launched in June 2006, the majority of the CBCMRIF program funding 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 wastewater systems, public transit, and environmental energy improvements. Other infrastructure projects will support local roads, cultural and recreational facilities, tourism, and broadband connectivity. Funding for these projects 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.

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