

For Immediate Release
2008CS0047-000319
March 7, 2008

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

SALMON ARM ENHANCES ROAD SAFETY AND WATER CONSERVATION

SALMON ARM – The community of Salmon Arm will build a new highway underpass to improve commuter safety and will develop a new water reclamation system at its existing wastewater treatment plant, thanks to a \$2.1-million investment 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 Colin Mayes, MP for Okanagan-Shuswap, and George Abbott, MLA for Shuswap and Minister of Health.

“These investments will deliver significant benefits to Salmon Arm by improving commuter safety and increasing water conservation,” said Mayes, 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 pleased to partner with the Province of British Columbia to make lasting improvements to key infrastructure in Salmon Arm.”

“Each of these projects will make a positive difference to the environment in Salmon Arm,” said Abbott. “The underpass is expected to help reduce pollution and increase safety while the water reuse system promises to help reduce water consumption. We’re pleased to support Salmon Arm with infrastructure that not only helps environmentally, but also saves the community money.”

The City of Salmon Arm is receiving \$2 million to build on and off ramps, and a new underpass at the Trans-Canada Highway interchange at 20th and 21st streets. The funding will also be used to construct an access road between 20th and 22nd streets northeast and reconfigure the intersection of 21st Street NE and 9th Avenue NE. The improvements are expected to reduce collisions, increase safety for pedestrians crossing the highway and reduce idling traffic. The new underpass and access road will include sidewalks and improved drainage on both sides of the road.

“We are pleased to partner with the federal and provincial governments to provide the residents of Salmon Arm with improved infrastructure services,” said Mayor Marty Bootsma. “The proposed underpass will go far to address the need to improve the transportation challenges facing our growing community.”

Salmon Arm will also receive \$100,000 to install a water reclamation system at the wastewater treatment plant, allowing it to recycle a portion of treated effluent for non-potable use within the plant. The facility currently uses potable water for many processes and this project will save up to 200,000 litres of water per day during summer through reuse.

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 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.

Media contact: Jackie Stewart
Western Economic Diversification
Canada
604 666-7543

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

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province’s news feeds using RSS, visit the Province’s website at www.gov.bc.ca.