

New Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Program

Submitted by the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Secretariat

On December 3, 2004, Canada and Manitoba signed a new Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Program (CMIP) agreement funded under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF). The agreement will invest \$120 million primarily in rural and northern community infrastructure across Manitoba over the next five years. This initiative, with new parameters and criteria, builds on the success of the 2000-2004 Infrastructure Program, particularly the cooperative partnerships among governments. The Federal-Provincial Local Consultative Committee (FPLCC), with representation from the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and the Northern Association of Community Councils, will once again review and recommend project selection.

Applications

All Manitoba local governments, as well as non-government organizations (NGOs), are eligible to apply for MRIF funding to assist with the enhancement of community public infrastructure. Applications require a supporting municipal resolution. NGOs also require a supporting board resolution, along with a municipal resolution.

You are encouraged to submit your

application on-line at www.infrastructure.mb.ca. Each community has been provided with a unique User ID and PIN number to access the on-line application process.

As an alternative to applying on-line, applicants may request an interactive CD or paper application form from the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Secretariat by calling (204) 945-1906 or toll-free 1-800-268-4883 or by e-mail at infra@gov.mb.ca.

Former program nears completion

We thank our community partners for contributing to the success of the 2000-2004 Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Program. With funding from the former program fully allocated to over 175 projects, there are quantifiable benefits coming on stream. For example, over 22,000 more Manitoba households are receiving improved potable water; municipal wastewater systems capacity has increased by over a million cubic meters; and over 2,800 more tonnes of solid waste is being recycled or composted.

Regrettably, the former program had far more requests than available funding. Many of the unfunded applications are

dated – in terms of project status, including the project being completed or change in municipal priority. As well, the revised program parameters of the new CMIP – such as mandatory and ranking criteria and the requirement for business cases – are intended to help communities make more informed decisions on infrastructure renewal.

Communities with applications not approved under the former CMIP are therefore asked to re-submit using the new CMIP-MRIF application process to ensure up-to-date application(s) reflecting the priority(s) of the your current council, as well as meeting the mandatory program requirements.

Application intake deadlines

Infrastructure application intake deadlines are set in consultation with the local consultative committee. Two deadlines were announced on January 21, 2005: an early or interim application intake deadline of March 15, 2005, with a second intake deadline shortly after on June 15, 2005. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis with subsequent intake deadlines set annually on the advice of the program's local consultive committee. All applications remain active until the program's final approval date of March 31, 2010.



(L-R) The Hon. Scott Smith (Manitoba's Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade) and Canada's President of the Treasury Board, the Hon. Reg Alcock, sign the new agreement.



AMM's Garry Wasylowski (Rural Vice-President) makes his address, while Ministers Smith and Alcock listen.