

UPDATE: Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Programs, Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund

(1) 2nd Round Rural & Northern Infrastructure Project Results

In rural and northern Manitoba, 13 communities are benefiting from a \$17 million infrastructure investment as part of the second round of rural and northern project approvals under the Canada-Manitoba Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF). Announced March 24, 2006, these 13 projects include construction and upgrades for water and sewer treatment systems in 10 communities, with three more communities seeing tourism infrastructure enhancements that will promote economic development.

Recommendations for rural and northern infrastructure projects are made by the Federal-Provincial-Local Consultative Committee, a six member committee of officials from the AMM that includes President **Ron Bell** and Vice-Presidents **Garry Wasylowski** (Rural) and **Lorne Boguski** (Urban), as well as representatives from the Northern Association of Community Councils and Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

The third and final intake deadline for rural and northern project applications was June 15, 2006. Approved projects from this round of MRIF applications should be announced in the Fall/Winter of 2006-07.

MRIF – 2nd Round Rural & Northern Project Approval List (announced March 24, 2006)

A minimum of 40% of the \$120 million MRIF is designated for 'green' municipal infrastructure. The remainder is for other local infrastructure including transportation, cultural and recreational projects, and infrastructure that support tourism and connectivity.

GREEN MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

▼ Interlake

- RM of St. Clements, East Selkirk Sewer and Water \$ 4,600,000
- RM of Bifrost, Industrial Park Water Services \$ 600,000

▼ Northern

- Sherridon Community Council, Sherridon Water Treatment Plant \$3,283,000

▼ South Central Region

- RM of Lorne, Swan Lake Lagoon \$ 1,440,000

- Town of Altona/RM of Rhineland, Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion, \$2,400,000

▼ Southeast Region

- Town of Niverville, Wastewater Treatment Upgrades \$ 2,400,000

▼ Southwest Region

- RM of Strathcona, Belmont Lagoon Upgrades \$ 280,000
- RM of North Cypress, Brookdale Sewer System \$ 480,000
- Village of St. Lazare, Water and Sewer Extension \$ 72,000
- Town of Minnedosa, Water Treatment Plant Upgrades \$ 1,050,000 (The three levels of government are partnering with Husky Energy to upgrade the water treatment plant to meet the water capacity and quality needs for the Husky Energy ethanol plant expansion in Minnedosa.)

LOCAL ROADS

▼ Parklands

- RM of Ochre River, Oako Beach Drive \$ 66,000

TOURISM

▼ Southwest

- RM of Ellice, Qu'Appelle Valley Tourism Road \$ 225,000

RECREATION

▼ North Central

- City of Portage la Prairie, Crescent Lake Recreational Enhancements \$ 360,000

80% of MRIF funding is earmarked for communities with a population of fewer than 250,000 and includes 198 municipalities and 50 unincorporated Northern Community Councils in rural and northern Manitoba.

For a complete list of MRIF projects in Manitoba, please visit the CMIPs website at www.infrastructure.mb.ca.

(2) Infrastructure update on MRIF Connectivity Projects

The Parkland Telecommunications Network (PTN - \$4 million MRIF investment) and Broadband Communications North Inc (BCN - \$2.8 million MRIF investment) are working hard to move their respective



Attending the 2nd Round of the Rural and Northern Infrastructure announcement were (L-R) Reg Mead, Northern Association of Community Councils; the Hon. Vic Toews, Federal Minister of Justice; Mayor Greg Fehr, Town of Niverville; the Hon. Ron Lemieux, Minister of Transportation and Government Services; and AMM President Ron Bell.

connectivity projects forward. Today, there are 60 communities in the Parklands and Northern regions who have signed on to the wireless broadband access (high speed Internet) project. These projects have the potential to service more than 60,000 users, 1,600 public institutions including schools and healthcare institutions, and 2,100 local businesses. Future builds are possible in these regions that could expand the service to up to 93 communities.

Once the wireless Internet service is up and running, residents that hook up to the new system will benefit from a quicker and more affordable Internet service with improved quality and access to e-health, e-learning, e-business and other e-solutions. Other positive outcomes include an increased link to larger centres, expanded marketing opportunities for communities, businesses, agriculture, the tourism industry, and increased opportunity for outside investment.

The BCN project has constructed one tower and future towers will be constructed over this summer and fall. BCN is scheduled for completion by the end of November 2006. PTN is in the process of constructing towers throughout the Parklands region and expects to begin connecting residents to the wireless broadband service by late summer 2006.

For more project information about PTN: www.pcfcd.mb.ca/site/projects/broadband.htm To be placed on a waiting list for Wireless service: www.inetlink.ca/parkland.htm

For more project information about BCN contact: Ashmede Asgarali, Project Manager, Broadband Communications North Inc. (204) 949-4012.

(3) New CMIPs website

The Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Programs has a new updated website that features more information about the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, MRIF Application Tips, project updates and a photo gallery section. There are also specific sections dedicated to the CMIP's ongoing and completed projects, as well as current information about the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund projects in Winnipeg.

Visit the new CMIP website, (same address), at www.infrastructure.mb.ca.

(4) For Municipalities - InfraGuide's Best Practices & E-Learning

Long-term municipal infrastructure planning is essential to maintaining healthy communities. **InfraGuide**, the **National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure** offers information for local governments on Best Practices and E-Learning products that encourage innovation in support of viable municipal infrastructure. Infraguide's products, (some are listed below), can be previewed and purchased online through their web site at www.infraguide.ca.

There are seven series of **InfraGuide Best Practices** publications including: *Decision Making and Investment Planning*, *Potable Water, Storm and Wastewater, Roads and Sidewalks, Environmental Protocols, Multi-Discipline and Transit*.

InfraGuide E-Learning (CD based) products are multi-media educational tools with titles that now include: *Managing Infrastructure Assets (Asset Plan Management)*, *Developing a Water Distribution System Renewal Plan* (new in 2006), and *An Integrated Approach to Assessment & Evaluation of Municipal Road, Sewer & Water Networks* (new in 2006).

The Best Practices publications/reports series and E-Learning products are targeted to assist municipal practitioners, decision-makers and technical staff in both public and private sectors in making informed, smart decisions about maintaining, repairing and upgrading the infrastructure that supports quality of life.

Infraguide is a partnership of Infrastructure Canada, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the National Research Council. ☞

For further information about the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Programs, please contact us:

Request a copy of our latest Update 2006 publication or view it on the website.

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