



# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 30, 2009

**Alberta communities benefit from more than \$76 million in investments for roads, bridges, and other municipal infrastructure**

**EDMONTON, ALBERTA** – Today communities across Alberta will benefit from more than \$76 million in investments towards twenty-two municipal infrastructure projects through the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component program. The funding will help smaller communities throughout Alberta meet their pressing infrastructure needs and support economic growth and help stimulate the economy.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Rob Merrifield, Minister of State for Transport, the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Labour, together with the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Alberta Minister of Transportation.

"The building of roads, bridges, and other key infrastructure is an important part of our Government's Economic Action Plan that aims to stimulate the economy and create jobs across Canada," said Minister of State Merrifield. "These community projects will have a positive impact in the lives of Albertans by creating long-term benefits, and giving a boost to our economy."

The projects announced today will improve local roads, water, wastewater, cultural and green energy infrastructure. Other priorities eligible for funding under the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component program include sport, connectivity, solid waste management and collaborative projects for municipal capacity building. Project highlights from today's announcement include a new energy efficient firehall in the Town of Three Hills, a wastewater project in the Municipal District of Lesser Slaver River, and a water-treatment facility in Hinton.

"Alberta has a comprehensive plan to invest in infrastructure across the province," said Ouellette. "The Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund is a great example of how governments can cooperate to keep Albertans working and improve our communities."

“Our Government's investments are enabling western Canadian communities to build roads, water systems and green, sustainable buildings while supporting a high standard of living for residents,” said Minister Prentice. “We will continue working with the province and municipalities to get shovels in the ground for as soon as possible in order to make our economy stronger in this time of global uncertainty. In our most recent Budget, we also delivered additional assistance to small communities across Canada by providing another \$500 million for infrastructure investments over the next two years.”

Under the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component, the federal and provincial governments provide up to two-thirds of the funding for eligible project costs. Partnering municipalities provide the remaining project funding. The federal and provincial governments together will invest \$48 million towards the total of more than \$76 million announced today. Municipalities will invest the remaining amount of more than \$28 million.

“This program is an excellent example of how all orders of government can work together to stimulate the economy through infrastructure spending,” said Minister Ambrose. “Working with the provinces and municipalities to put infrastructure projects on the fast track is a cornerstone of our economic action plan to strengthen and protect Canada’s economy.”

In Alberta, the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component is implemented by Western Economic Diversification Canada and Alberta Transportation, and is administered by a Joint Secretariat. Project applications are reviewed and approved by an Oversight Committee. The Committee is comprised of representatives from the governments of Canada and Alberta, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties.

Participation in the Building Canada Fund is part of the Alberta government’s \$22-billion investment to enhance infrastructure under the province’s 2008-11 Capital Plan. The investment helps build necessary infrastructure and encourages economic activity across the province.

Communities can apply for new project funding online at the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund - Communities Component website: [www.buildingcanadafundalberta.ca](http://www.buildingcanadafundalberta.ca). The application deadline, which opened on January 5th, 2009, is March 15, 2009.

- 30 -

**NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS:**

The Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component fact sheet and details of the projects are attached.

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## ***Fact Sheet***

### ***Building Canada Communities Component in Alberta***

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#### **Building Canada Fund Communities Component:**

On August 29, 2008, the federal and provincial governments signed the Building Canada Plan Framework Agreement. The Framework Agreement governs the Building Canada Fund, Provincial and Territorial Base Funding and formalizes the commitment to the Federal Gas Tax funding extension.

The Building Canada Fund has two components. Under the Major Infrastructure Component, Canada and Alberta will both contribute more than \$752 million towards larger, strategic projects of national and regional significance. Under the Communities Component, Canada and Alberta will both contribute \$88 million towards smaller projects in communities with populations of less than 100,000. Funded communities will also have to contribute one-third (1/3) toward approved projects.

#### **Communities Component in Alberta:**

The nine categories of infrastructure that are eligible for funding under the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component are water, wastewater, solid waste, local roads, culture, sports, connectivity, green energy, and collaborative projects for municipal capacity building.

Requests for project funding under the Communities Component will be subject to a competitive, application-based process. This process will be administered by a Joint Secretariat made up of federal and provincial officials. The Secretariat will provide the first level of due diligence, including an engineering, environmental, and legal review of the applications. The Secretariat will review and rank the applications against program criteria, and provide the eligible lists to the Communities Component Oversight Committee for their review and recommendation. Communities can continue to apply for funding until March 15, 2009.

#### **Funding Categories**

**CONNECTIVITY AND BROADBAND** - The Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component funding in this category will be directed towards Projects designed to:

- Improve the delivery of public services, such as government services, education and health;
- Improve quality of life, social development, reduce travel requirements, and increase the potential for innovation and economic development by connecting Canadians —particularly in rural and remote communities.

**WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE** - The Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component will encourage investments in wastewater infrastructure designed to:

- Reduce the negative impacts of municipal wastewater effluent or storm-water effluent on human health and the environment;
- Improve the management of wastewater sludge;
- Improve the management and efficiency of municipal wastewater infrastructure or storm-water infrastructure, including improvements to the energy efficiency of the infrastructure;
- Improve the quality of treated municipal wastewater effluent and storm-water discharged into the environment.

**GREEN ENERGY** - The Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component will stimulate investments in sustainable energy infrastructure that contribute to:

- Increased availability and/or security of Canada and Alberta's clean energy supply;
- Increased availability of renewable energy;
- Improved air quality;
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT** - The Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component will promote investments in solid-waste processing infrastructure that can reduce the environmental impacts of this waste.

**DRINKING WATER** - The Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component promotes long-term funding for water infrastructure Projects designed to:

- Improve the safety, management, reliability and efficiency of Canada and Alberta's drinking water treatment and distribution systems;
- Increase the number of households with access to safe drinking water that meets or exceeds the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality and Alberta's drinking water quality requirements;
- Improve protection and management of drinking water sources;
- Improve conservation of water.

**LOCAL ROADS** - The Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component will support investments in local roads to:

- Improve road safety, mobility and sustainability;
- Promote the rehabilitation of bridges, tunnels and other structures;
- Support economic and community development.

**SPORT** - The Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component funding in this category will be directed towards Projects designed to:

- Provide increased opportunities for sport activities that can improve the health of Canadians and strengthen Canadian communities;
- Provide increased opportunities for the development of Canadian athletes and/or the hosting of major amateur athletic events.

**CULTURE** - The Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component funding in this category will be directed towards projects that:

- Support arts and/or designated heritage facilities;
- Help communities express, preserve, develop and promote their culture and/or heritage within Canada and Alberta.

**COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS FOR MUNICIPAL CAPACITY BUILDING** - The Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component funding in this category will be directed towards projects that:

- Promote the implementation of holistic approaches to public infrastructure planning and management, and sustainable community planning principles;
- Encourage a culture of using integrated life-cycle asset management as a decision-making approach;
- Promote the integration of demand management in public infrastructure planning and management;
- Encourage dissemination of project results to other municipalities; and
- Support collaborative feasibility and planning studies on public infrastructure projects and issues.

## **Backgrounder**

### **Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Communities Component**

#### **Round One Successful Projects**

<u>Project Locations</u>	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	COMBINED FEDERAL / PROVINCIAL CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL PROJECT COST
Town of Bashaw	1 project	\$1,188,532	\$1,871,940
Village of Chipman	1 project	\$486,724	\$766,590
Town of Didsbury	1 project	\$4,065,332	\$6,402,898
Village of Donnelly	1 project	\$1,513,332	\$2,406,200
Town of Hinton	1 project	\$6,000,000	\$10,102,050
Municipality of Jasper	1 project	\$3,000,000	\$4,725,000
Leduc County	1 project	\$5,000,000	\$7,924,350
MD of Lesser Slave River	1 project	\$3,096,666	\$4,877,250
County of Lethbridge	1 project	\$6,000,000	\$9,765,000
Mackenzie County	1 project	\$577,942	\$910,260
Town of Mundare	1 project	\$4,000,000	\$6,300,000
Town of Olds	1 project	\$2,145,216	\$3,378,715
Town of Rainbow Lake	1 project	\$813,440	\$1,281,168
City of Red Deer	1 project	\$1,400,000	\$2,205,000
Summer Village of Seba Beach	1 project	\$46,666	\$73,500
County of Thorhild	2 projects	\$1,659,704	\$2,614,034
		\$398,008	\$626,863
Town of Three Hills	1 project	\$1,300,000	\$2,047,500
Town of Vermilion	1 project	\$2,942,034	\$4,633,704
Village of Warburg	1 project	\$800,000	\$1,272,000
Summer Village of West Cove	1 project	\$86,666	\$137,800
County of Wetaskiwin	1 project	\$1,623,332	\$2,556,750
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>22 Projects</b>	<b>\$48,143,594</b>	<b>\$76,878,572</b>

## **Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund-Communities Component Project List Summary with Total Project Costs**

### **Town of Bashaw Infrastructure Upgrading \$1,871,940**

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Existing sewage holding tanks in the northwest sector of Bashaw will be replaced with a new gravity sewer. To support the increase in capacity, an alternate discharge line will be constructed from the core lift station. Also as part of this project, the Schultz subdivision roads will be paved to improve driving conditions for motorists.

### **Village of Chipman Road Program \$766,590**

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This project involves grading, base preparation and installation of curb and gutter as part of the final phase of a comprehensive program to upgrade streets within Chipman from an existing graveled surface to an asphalted concrete pavement. This will improve driver safety.

### **Town of Didsbury North Industrial Area - Road Work & Storm Water Management \$6,402,898**

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The installation of a sub-surface storm water drainage system throughout an industrial park will improve the collection of storm water and direct it to a storm water management facility to be installed as a component of this project. Upon completion, all the gravel roads in this subdivision will be paved.

### **Village of Donnelly Paving East Village of Donnelly \$2,406,200**

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The project consists of paving, adding concrete curbs, gutters and some sidewalks for the east side of the Village of Donnelly, including the Sawmill subdivision and Railway Avenue, as well as Center, 1st and 2nd Streets and Doyle, Cote and Gravel Avenue. This will result in safer roadways for drivers and pedestrians.

### **Town of Hinton Water Treatment Plant Upgrade \$10,102,050**

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Five major upgrades to the Hinton Water Treatment Plant will further improve the quality of drinking water for residents. Upgrades will include installation of microfiltration pressure membranes prior to the drinking water distribution pumps; installation of Ultraviolet disinfection as per provincial regulatory standards; upgrade of the chlorination system; replacement of fluoridation system; and upgrade to the distribution pumps to meet increased demand projections.

**Municipality of Jasper**  
**Jasper Activity and Aquatic Centre Renovation** **\$4,725,000**

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The installation of new energy efficiency technologies will be the focus of renovations for two municipally owned facilities, the Jasper Activity Centre and the Jasper Aquatic Centre. The project will also result in an interior redesign that responds to the needs of the community. This project will decrease building operating costs, improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Leduc County**  
**Nisku Spine Road Construction - Phase 1** **\$7,924,350**

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Construct the first two lanes of Phase 1 of the Nisku Spine Road. Phase 1 involves the reconstruction of the existing 9th street alignment from Secondary Highway 625 to 25 Avenue. This will improve the safety of the road network and will support community development.

**MD of Lesser Slave River**  
**Southshore Regional Wastewater Re-use & Green Infrastructure System** **\$4,877,250**

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Residents and businesses in the Hamlets of Widewater and Wagner will benefit from the construction of a wastewater collection system. The project will result in approximately 325 residential lots receiving service connections to sanitary sewer systems.

**County of Lethbridge**  
**North County Potable Water Co-op Project** **\$9,765,000**

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This pipeline construction project will allow the connection of over 550 rural households, consisting of nearly 2,500 rural north county residents of the Lethbridge County. The reliable delivery of safe water to their cisterns by pipeline will provide time, fuel and cost savings.

**Mackenzie County**  
**La Crete 100 Avenue and 102 Street Road Improvements** **\$910,260**

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This project consists of construction of a piped storm sewer system and installation of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and hot mix asphalt overlay in a downtown area of the Hamlet of La Crete. This project will result in increased accessibility and improved safety of the road network.

**Town of Mundare**  
**Mundare Main Street Rehabilitation** **\$6,300,000**

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The main street rehabilitation project will involve the installation/improvement of a storm water drainage system, rehabilitation of the road surface, and replacement of water and sewer mains. The project will improve safety and services for residents, tourists and businesses and provide the necessary infrastructure for future economic growth.

**Town of Olds**  
**Olds Municipal Library** **\$3,378,715**

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The Olds Municipal Library expansion project will include four main components including general library space, meeting space, program space, and administrative space. Efforts will be made to use environmentally sustainable building materials and systems and the expansion will provide increased space for community usage.

**Town of Rainbow Lake**  
**Home Road Highway Commercial / Industrial Water and Sewer Development** **\$1,281,168**

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The Town of Rainbow Lake will extend its municipal services along Home Road to increase access to improved drinking water quality and wastewater connections for a number of households, industries, commercial establishments and institutions. This project has been designed to accommodate current and future development of this area.

**City of Red Deer**  
**Traffic Signal Control System Upgrade** **\$2,205,000**

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The objective of this project is to replace and update traffic signal equipment and computer software to ensure system reliability, increase system capacity and enhance system operations. This will result in safer roadways for drivers and pedestrians.

**Summer Village of Seba Beach**  
**10th Street North Bridge Replacement** **\$73,500**

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This project will remove an existing bridge and replace it with a new bridging structure. This will provide more efficient access to areas serviced by this road and increase safety for drivers.

**County of Thorhild**  
**Correction Line Road** **\$2,614,034**

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This project is intended to rebuild four miles of Township Road 590 to accommodate increased heavy truck traffic, making the road an arterial road for traffic in the south end of the County. This will improve driver safety and facilitate the movement of people and goods within the region.

**County of Thorhild**  
**Long Lake Emergency Access Road** **\$626,863**

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Improved access will be provided through the construction of a 1.5 kilometre roadway that will serve as a secondary access into the Hamlet of Long Lake. This roadway will tie into existing roadways to support the transportation needs of local residents and businesses.

**Town of Three Hills**  
**Town of Three Hills New Fire Hall** **\$2,047,500**

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The fire hall will be constructed using clean-energy technologies and materials, resulting in reduced operational costs and a minimized environmental footprint of the building.

**Town of Vermilion**  
**Downtown Core Underground and Streetscape Improvements** **\$4,633,704**

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Street improvements designed to provide safer pedestrian and motorist movement include the replacement of sidewalks, improved street lighting, installation of traffic calming devices and traffic signal light upgrades. Below the surface, there will be the replacement of all water mains and water service. This project will result in minimized environmental impacts and increased road safety.

**Village of Warburg**  
**Residential Access Roads Project/Install Water/Sewer Services** **\$1,272,000**

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This project includes the construction of 56th Avenue (Woodcroft Place) from Woodcroft Drive to 50th Street and 50th Avenue from 48th Street to 45th Street, including the installation of water and sewer.

**Summer Village of West Cove**  
**Valking Road - West Cove Drive Upgrade Project** **\$137,800**

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This project includes rebuilding the road surface, shoulders, ditches and culverts for proper drainage and resurfacing the roadway from 4th Street to Boat Launch Road (Valking Road) and from 3rd Street to 11th Street (West Cove Drive). This will result in safer roadways for drivers and pedestrians and improved storm water management.

**County of Wetaskiwin**  
**Yeoford Road - Base & Pave** **\$2,556,750**

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This project is to pave 3.2 kilometres of Yeoford road as part of a phased plan to resurface the entire 18.5 kilometre section. This project will result in an improved road network.

**TOTAL PROJECTS: 22**  
**TOTAL PROJECT COSTS: \$76,878,572**

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