

Infrastructure News



The Newsletter of the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program

Fall 2005

INSIDE

Message from your governments

All three levels of government share a commitment to improving the quality of life for Canadians and to building sustainable communities *Page 2*

Houston upgrades its watersystems

The outdoor community of Houston to benefit from water system improvements. *Page 3*

New water treatment facility for Telkwa

The residents of Telkwa get access to clean water *Page 3*

Valemount increases clean water capacity

Tourism to flourish with increased access to water *Page 4*

Infrastructure Program wrapping up Over \$900 million approved for 312 projects

The construction of infrastructure projects is in full swing as the Canada - British Columbia Infrastructure Program heads into its final phase. On June 30, 2005 the application process ended with the program committed to 312 infrastructure projects throughout British Columbia worth more than \$900 million. Nearly 1,000 applications were received worth approximately \$2.8 billion since the program was launched in 2001. The program funded projects to improve drinking water, implement wastewater systems, create and improve community facilities, and develop energy-efficient

government buildings. Communities are building recreational and tourism infrastructure to improve their quality of life.

The partnership between the three levels of government - federal, provincial and local - has been paramount to the success of the Canada - British Columbia Infrastructure Program. This partnership is helping build sustainable communities by investing in modernized infrastructure that supports long-term economic growth, creates job opportunities and offers improved community facilities.

...continued on page 4

Clean drinking water for Squamish and Lillooet residents

Unsafe drinking water has enormous health and economic impacts for small communities. Just ask the community of Devine, situated in the Squamish Lillooet Regional District, which used untreated surface water as its primary source of drinking water. As a result, the community was put on constant boil water advisory.

Thanks to the Canada - British Columbia Infrastructure Program, which funded the development of a groundwater source for the community's homes, the boil water advisory was lifted. The project included the development of a well, a well kiosk, the

provision of power to the well site, and installation of pressurized tanks for surge protection. This has allowed an increased supply of potable water and lifted the boil-water advisory, strengthening the community for future growth.

Residents are now able to go about their daily lives without having to worry about boiling their water.



A young boy takes a refreshing drink of water, now possible with the regional district's groundsource watersystem.

...continued on page 4

Message from your governments

For Canada



*The Honourable Stephen Owen, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Minister of Western Economic Diversification
and Minister of State (Sport)
Government of Canada*

A message from the Honourable Stephen Owen

Clean water is one of our basic necessities and vital to keep our communities thriving and sustainable. This edition of Infrastructure News highlights new and improved water and wastewater systems that will provide British Columbians with access to clean, drinkable water. As Minister responsible for administering the Infrastructure Canada Program in Western Canada, I am proud of these and other accomplishments of the Canada - British Columbia Infrastructure Program. As we head into the fall months, BC communities will enjoy the health and economic benefits of having clean water at their disposal.

*Stephen Owen
Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport)
Government of Canada*

For British Columbia



*The Hon. Colin Hansen,
Minister of Economic Development
Province of British Columbia*

A message from the Honourable Colin Hansen

As British Columbia's Minister responsible for infrastructure, I am looking forward to building on the successes already achieved from our partnership of federal, provincial and local governments. Through the Canada - British Columbia Infrastructure Program, we are investing more than \$900 million in community projects right across the province. From water treatment facilities to recreation facilities, BC communities have told us what their priorities are and we're delivering. By working together, we are ensuring that British Columbia continues to be the best place to live, work and invest.

*Colin Hansen
Minister of Economic Development
Province of British Columbia*

For the Union of B.C. Municipalities



*Aaron Dinwoodie,
President, Union of British Columbia
Municipalities*

A message from Aaron Dinwoodie

Access to clean drinking water is vital to any community's social, economic and environmental health. Through providing up to two-thirds of the costs, the federal and provincial governments have made these critical projects a reality for many communities across BC. The Union of BC Municipalities looks forward to the next generation of infrastructure programs that will continue this record of success, allowing local governments to address their priorities and deliver essential infrastructure in their communities.

*Aaron Dinwoodie,
President, Union of British Columbia Municipalities*

People of Telkwa can drink easy

It was not long ago that the Village of Telkwa was afraid to consume its own water for fear of contracting a waterborne illness. With a lack of necessary water filtration, regular boil-water advisories had to be issued causing an adverse effect on the community. Without clean drinking water, problems arose attracting new residents and tourists to this otherwise thriving community. The untreated water also affected the community's main employer, Northern White Dairy, which produces milk and other dairy products.

However, that has all changed as a result of the Canada - British Columbia Infrastructure Program. A new water treatment plant has been built, providing clean drinking water to the community and delivering water to 550 households. The new plant includes state-of-the-art water filtration

technology to deal with the high levels of turbidity from the Bulkley River. With access to good quality water, the Village of Telkwa can showcase its outdoor-oriented lifestyle ranging from world-class sports fishing to downhill skiing.

"The boil water advisory cost this region a great deal in terms of tourism activity and employment opportunities for residents. It was a real problem and cost the Village major economic prospects," said Ron Bowles, Chief Administration Officer, Village of Telkwa.



Telkwa's new water treatment plant, which includes new water filtration technology, delivers clean drinking water to over 500 households across the community.

"The new plant helps in so many ways, especially keeping people employed and having a successful tourist sector."

The total cost of the project was nearly \$2.5 million, with more than \$800,000 each contributed by the federal and provincial governments.

Water problems are history for the District of Houston

For the community of Houston, having access to clean water is vital to allow its residents to maintain their outdoor-oriented lifestyle but more importantly, to keep the community safe from forest fires. The threat of such wildfires comes at the heels of the 2003 summer

wildfires that devastated BC's interior region. With an inadequate water supply and distribution system, the community would have been unable to effectively combat any such fires, proving extremely dangerous to residents and communities.

The Canada - British Columbia

Infrastructure Program helped solve this water problem and provided a sense of relief to the residents of Houston. The community's water system will receive a major upgrade with the federal and provincial governments each contributing \$350,000 towards this \$1 million initiative. The upgrades will strengthen the community's ability to fight fires with a newly renovated water distribution system. The improved water and wastewater treatment facilities will service 900 households and lift the recurring seasonal boil water advisory that has been issued since April of 2002.

"The District of Houston is relieved that we will have readily-available clean water and a distribution system to fight any forest fires in the future," said Acting Mayor Larry Dockendorff, District of Houston. "This would not have been possible without the help of the Canada - BC Infrastructure Program."



Houston residents now have more time to enjoy the outdoors with their recently upgraded water and wastewater systems.

Valemount tourism benefits from clean water

The Village of Valemount is a community that offers travelers a unique outdoor experience. Whether it is fishing at Kinbasket Lake, horseback riding at Cardinal Ranch or visiting the R.W. Starrat Wildlife Sanctuary, there is an activity for everyone to enjoy. With funding from the Canada - British Columbia Infrastructure Program, the community is improving access to clean water, therefore, helping their tourism sector grow.

Valemount has doubled its water capacity through a new water storage reservoir with more effective disinfection methods to treat any waterborne diseases. The increased supply of water will allow the community to expand its tourism operations through the development of two new destination resorts. Other benefits from the water storage upgrades include better water quality for over 500 households and improvement of

the community's fire-fighting capabilities.

"The Village of Valemount is very grateful for the financial assistance we received towards our new underground reservoir," said Judy Bosch, Deputy

Administrator, Village of Valemount. "This new reservoir provides increased capacity thus increasing the contact time for water treatment and more firefighting capacity."

The Government of Canada and the Province of BC each contributed more than \$200,000 to this \$620,000 initiative.



The rushing waters of Swift Creek will provide the community of Valemount with clean water with the help of their new water storage and filtration system.

Infrastructure Program wrapping up.

Continuation of front page story

Having accessible, clean drinking water is vital to developing sustainable, prosperous and thriving communities. That's why the Infrastructure program put significant emphasis on "green" projects such as water and wastewater systems. The program was successful in that endeavour with just over 75 percent directed to "green" projects. In addition, the program surpassed its goal of approving 16 percent of program funding

for rural communities by approving 138 projects representing 27 percent of program funding.

This issue of Infrastructure News focuses on projects that have helped communities access clean drinking water and lift community boil water advisories. The projects profiled here illustrate the impact the program is having on communities across the province.

Clean drinking water for Squamish and Lillooet residents

Continuation of front page story

"The Canada - British Columbia Infrastructure Program has improved the quality of life for the residents of a small Squamish neighbourhood," said Paul Pedgington, Administrator, Squamish

Lillooet Regional District.

The total cost of the project was \$118,691, with the federal and provincial governments each contributing \$39,563.

For more information about the Canada - British Columbia Infrastructure Program, please visit the following:

Infrastructure Canada
- www.infrastructure.gc.ca

Ministry of Economic Development
- www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev

For general information on the program:
Western Economic Diversification
Canada
(604) 666-6256

For information on community infrastructure projects:
BC Ministry of Economic
Development
(250) 952-0675

For information on water and sewer-related projects:
BC Ministry of Community Services
(250) 387-4060