

Canada/British Columbia Infrastructure Program

December 2000 Update

- Representatives of the federal, provincial and local governments are in the process of finalizing application procedures and ranking criteria. The local government representatives will also participate in the program's annual reviews, but their role on specific applications will be limited to advice and comments.
- The program guide and application kits will be available in mid January 2001. They will be available through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the federal and provincial governments.
- There will be several opportunities to apply for funding under the program. The intake of applications will be ongoing and decisions on project approvals will be made at set intervals (to be determined) throughout the program's life. Applicants will be notified as soon as possible if their applications do not meet the program's eligibility criteria.
- The program agreement was officially signed on October 10, 2000. It will invest more than \$800 million in British Columbia over the duration of the agreement.
- The program is based on partnerships between federal, provincial and local governments, with the federal and provincial governments contributing up to one-third each of the total overall program funds.
- The main priority is investment in *green local government infrastructure projects*. Such projects include:
 - water and wastewater systems
 - water management, and
 - capital expenditures to retrofit or improve the energy efficiency of local government buildings and facilities.
- Other priorities will include investment in infrastructure projects such as:
 - cultural and recreational facilities
 - infrastructure supporting tourism
 - rural and remote telecommunications
 - high speed Internet access for local public institutions
 - local transportation
 - affordable housing
- A further allocation for strategic highways infrastructure, to be administered by Transport Canada under a separate agreement, has not yet been negotiated.
- Western Economic Diversification Canada, the federal department responsible for infrastructure in western Canada, and the provincial Ministry of Employment and Investment, are the lead agencies responsible for the program's administration.
- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs will administer the *green local government infrastructure projects*.
- Eligible applicants are:
 - local governments, and
 - local governments or bodies corporate (public or private) whose infrastructure projects are nominated by the management committee's federal or provincial co-chairs.
- Under the agreement, projects can be approved for funding until June 30, 2005. All projects funded must be completed by March 31, 2006.

Canada/British Columbia Infrastructure Program

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The new Canada/British Columbia
Infrastructure Program will invest
more than \$800 million in
British Columbia.

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The federal government and
provincial governments will
contribute up to \$268 million each
toward the program.

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A minimum of 75 per cent of the
funding will be invested in green
local government infrastructure.

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A minimum of 16 per cent of total
approved costs for all projects in
British Columbia must be invested in
projects proposed by rural
communities, to ensure their
infrastructure needs.

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Up to 20 per cent of the available
funding will be eligible for joint
federal/provincial nomination. These
projects must be
strategic, cross regional or
multiparty in nature.

Program Criteria

- Applicants are encouraged to submit carefully planned projects as applications will be evaluated and ranked according to how well they meet the following criteria:
 - Enhance the quality of Canada's environment
 - Support long-term economic growth
 - Improve community infrastructure
 - Build 21st century infrastructure through encouraging the use of best technologies, new approaches and best practices.
- The management committee will give preference to projects that meet at least two of the above criteria.

All projects must be a construction, renewal, expansion or material enhancement of infrastructure for the public's use or benefit.

Contacts

Ministry of Employment and Investment

www.ei.gov.bc.ca/InfrastructureProgram/default.htm

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Western Economic Diversification

www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/ino-bni/Main/main_e.asp

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For information regarding *green local government infrastructure projects*, please contact:

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

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