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Western Economic Diversification Canada
Ministry of Community Services
Ministry of Economic Development

SAFER WATER FOR CENTRAL SAANICH RESIDENTS

CENTRAL SAANICH

– A \$1.1-million federal and provincial funding contribution, through Canada-British Columbia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF), will connect 64 homes in Central Saanich to a supply of safe drinking water.

The Honourable Gary Lunn, MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands and Minister of Natural Resources on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Murray Coell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, Minister of Advanced Education and Minister responsible for Technology, and Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services, made the announcement today.

The funds will help to pay for the extension of the community drinking water system by installing two new water mains, and 64 new residential water meters.

“Canada’s New Government is working in partnership to improve the quality of life for the residents of Central Saanich and surrounding areas,” said Lunn. “Through this joint investment of \$1.1 million, we are helping build healthy, clean and prosperous communities.”

“There are few things more important than ensuring a community has access to safe drinking water,” said Coell.

“This funding ensures these residents will have a connection to a source of safe and reliable drinking water and I’m pleased to see this happen through the strong partnership between all three levels of government.”

“I’m pleased that our partnership is supporting this, and so many other infrastructure initiatives all around our province,” said Chong. “These projects, one by one, are contributing to a greener, healthier B.C.”

“On behalf of council, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to both the federal and provincial governments for their favourable consideration of this application. Extension of the district’s water system from the Thompson Road intersection on Mt. Newton Cross Road to the most westerly extent of Senanus Drive would ensure a reliable and adequate supply of potable domestic water to all residents who will be potentially serviced by the waterline,” said District of Central Saanich Mayor Jack Mar. “Confirmation of the availability of this funding will now permit the district to move forward with the next steps in the process in consultation with the area residents.”

Under the initial CBCMRIF Agreement signed in June 2006, the federal and provincial governments each committed \$51 million to the fund, with participating local governments expected to match this amount. This year, Canada’s New Government and the Province of B.C. have each provided an additional \$23.5 million to the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs. This additional funding brings the total federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in CBCMRIF projects to over \$220 million.

The majority of the funding is targeted towards communities of fewer than 250,000 people and at least 60 per cent of the funding will assist with “green projects” such as drinking water supply, treatment and distribution needs as well as wastewater and energy efficiency projects. The remaining funds will be dedicated to other projects like tourism, recreation and other infrastructure.

More details on the program are available through the Canada-British Columbia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund website, at www.canadabcmrif.ca.

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