



MEMBER RELEASE

JUNE 21, 2006

MUNICIPAL RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND AGREEMENT SIGNED

Canada and BC announced the signing of the Canada-BC Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF) today (see attached Information Bulletin). UBCM witnessed the agreement, acknowledging its terms and conditions.

In total Canada and BC are contributing \$102 million to the fund. A minimum of 80 percent of the funding will go to communities with populations under 250,000 and a minimum of 60 percent will go to "green" projects.

Eligible "green" project categories include: water, wastewater, public transit, local roads (resulting in reduction of environmental impacts) and energy improvements (e.g. to buildings). Non-green categories are cultural, recreation and tourism facilities and broadband internet access. Up to one percent of the total funds will be used to support local government capacity building and the use of integrated asset management.

As with the Canada-BC Infrastructure program (CBCIP), CBCMRIF will be managed by a Management Committee on which UBCM will have two members. The Management Committee develops guidelines and oversees the project review and selection process. The program will be administered by Ministry of Community Services and Ministry of Economic Development similar to CBCIP.

Important points for members to note for CBCMRIF are:

- The program will open for applications in early fall. Until then, local governments may wish to review the agreement including the mandatory screening criteria, ranking criteria and application guideline, (appended to the agreement). Links to these documents will be posted on the UBCM website home page under News and Announcements (www.civicnet.bc.ca).
- Projects can be approved no later than June 30, 2008 but UBCM has been assured that project approvals will occur well before then.
- The UBCM Executive is committed to a renewed MRIF program, which was announced in the 2006 federal budget, to be developed and in place as soon as possible in BC.

Please make copies of this circular and distribute to Council/Board Members /Staff.