
News Release

SEVEN NUNAVUT COMMUNITIES WILL BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

IQALUIT, Nunavut, May 30, 2006 – The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and the Honourable Levinia Brown, Nunavut's Minister of Community and Government Services today announced the signing of a contribution agreement that will provide improved water and wastewater infrastructure to seven communities in Nunavut.

Under the agreement, each government is providing up to \$20 million for projects in Cape Dorset, Resolute Bay, Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Qikiqtarjuaq and Rankin Inlet.

"The Government of Canada is dedicated to improving the quality of life of Nunavummiut," said Minister Cannon. "Through our partnership with the Government of Nunavut, we are working together to provide these remote communities with reliable water and wastewater infrastructure that will help enhance the quality of life of residents."

"These projects have been in the works for some time and I am delighted that we now have the final agreement in place," said Minister Brown. "They are part of the larger overall initiative we have in cooperation with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the Government of Canada to address the critical infrastructure needs in communities across Nunavut."

The projects involve the construction of sewage lagoons in Cape Dorset, Kugluktuk and Kugaaruk, and water and sewage systems in Resolute Bay and in Qikiqtarjuaq. Projects also include a new water system in Gjoa Haven and an upgraded utilidor pipe system in Rankin Inlet. Materials for some of the projects have already been ordered and will be delivered to communities this spring. Construction on several projects is scheduled to begin this summer.

The federal contribution comes from the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund, which supports large-scale projects of major national and regional significance. The goal of this fund is to strengthen areas that are vital to sustaining economic growth and enhancing quality of life for Canadians.

The Nunavut Regional Office of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will administer the agreement under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund in Nunavut. The Department will work with the Government of Nunavut, Infrastructure Canada and the communities to monitor and administer support for these projects.

The Government of Canada's 2006 Federal Budget committed an unprecedented \$16.5 billion over the next four years for provincial, territorial and municipal infrastructure to improve Canada's infrastructure, including an additional \$2 billion for the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

For more information about federal and territorial infrastructure initiatives that benefit the communities of Nunavut, please visit the Infrastructure Canada Web site at www.infrastructure.gc.ca or the Government of Nunavut site at www.gov.nu.ca/

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