



Timber Ridge Water Upgrade Complete

Water Quality Advisory Lifted

December 16, 2010

Invermere, British Columbia – For the first time since 2006, the Water Quality Advisory for the community of Timber Ridge has been lifted thanks to the completion of a \$1.45 million upgrade to the community's water system.

"Across the province, the Government of Canada is investing in infrastructure projects that promote healthy, safe, and liveable communities," said Kootenay-Columbia MP Jim Abbott. "This investment demonstrates our commitment to protecting our water sources and ensuring that Canadians have access to clean, reliable drinking water."

The Regional District of East Kootenay has received more than \$2 million in combined federal and provincial funding through the Building Canada Fund for water supply and water meter improvements. Of that amount, \$353,867 has been allocated to the Timber Ridge project, which also received \$143,167 from the Gas Tax Fund. The work included a retrofit of the existing water distribution system to receive bulk treated water from a private utility and the implementation of water meters on all connections.

"We are grateful for the funding we received on this project, all of which helped make this upgrade more affordable for the community," says RDEK Electoral Area F Director Wendy Booth. "We also are thankful for the work of the Timber Ridge Utility Advisory Commission, who have been involved every step of the way." The Advisory Commission is made up of a group of local residents who provide recommendations to the Board on the operation and maintenance of the Timber Ridge Water System.

"By working together, partners have solved a long-standing water issue in an innovative way," said Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. "This sounds like a practical use of both Building Canada and Gas Tax funds, with the entire community benefiting by tapping into water from a local provider."

A Water Quality Advisory has been in place within the Timber Ridge Water System since 2006 to meet Interior Health's requirements for turbidity (cloudiness) reporting. This week, the RDEK was able to remove the Advisory signs that have been posted at community entrances for over four years.

The Gas Tax Fund is a tripartite agreement between Canada, British Columbia and the Union of BC Municipalities delivering infrastructure funding to local governments primarily for capital projects that lead to cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. UBCM administers the Gas Tax Fund in B.C. in collaboration with Canada and British Columbia.

"Increasing water standards have required expensive capital improvements in many BC communities," said UBCM President Barbara Steele. "Programs like the Gas Tax Fund and Building Canada Fund are providing valued federal and provincial support to offset local costs for system upgrades."

The Building Canada Fund – Communities Component – is a federal and provincial infrastructure grant program that provides local governments with up to two-thirds of total eligible costs to build local public infrastructure. There are 133 projects totaling more than \$568 million in combined federal, provincial and local government dollars that have been funded through this program.

For further information on the Government of Canada's infrastructure investments in British Columbia, visit www.creatingjobs.gc.ca. To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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