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Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Saskatoon receives funding to upgrade wastewater treatment plant

For Immediate Release

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SASKATOON, Saskatchewan – The City of Saskatoon will receive more than \$3.2 million from the Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) to upgrade a portion of its wastewater treatment plant located in the city's north end.

The Honourable, Harry Van Mulligen, Minister of Saskatchewan Government Relations and Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin on behalf of the Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue and Western Economic Diversification and Saskatoon Mayor Donald Atchison announced the funding today.

“Canada’s New Government is pleased to invest in improvements that make Saskatoon’s wastewater treatment plant more environmentally-friendly,” said Vellacott. “Investments in up-to-date, efficient community infrastructure facilities fortify Saskatoon’s economic health and improve environmental effects for Saskatoon residents.”

“The province is pleased to contribute \$1.6 million toward this project,” Minister Van Mulligen said. “We understand the importance of investing in infrastructure and welcome opportunities to partner with communities and the federal government to maximize the funding available to support projects like this.”

“We continue to strive for improvements to our wastewater treatment system in order to minimize any impact on the environment,” said Mayor Atchison. “As well, this expansion will use the latest in grit removal technology and will address our future needs as the city grows. It also means a reduction in odours for the surrounding area and that’s a huge benefit for our residents.”

The City is entering into the detailed design stage of this project and expects equipment tenders to be issued in mid-summer followed by a construction tender in the fall of 2007. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in the summer of 2008.

The total project value is estimated at \$6.56 million. Scheduled improvements include the expansion and upgrade of the plant's grit and screening facility. The new technology will significantly improve the existing system. The upgrades, which include the addition of discharge stations, will also reduce maintenance costs and odours.

Before receiving final approval, community projects undergo a review process under both the *Canadian Environment Assessment Act* and *The Environmental Assessment Act (Saskatchewan)*.

The federal and provincial governments are investing a total of \$76 million in the four-year Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. Participating communities are expected to contribute one-half the cost of any project, which will raise the total infrastructure investment to more than \$152 million.

More information on the Government of Canada and Province of Saskatchewan's infrastructure programs is available online at www.infrastructure.gc.ca or www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/prosimsi.shtml.

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