



# *News Release*

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**For Release**  
**June 25, 2003**

## **Edmonton Chinese Cultural Projects Receive Funding Boost**

**Edmonton**, Alberta – Two new projects celebrating the contributions and cultural heritage of Edmonton's Chinese community will go ahead today, thanks to funding from the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP).

The projects, totalling \$909,500, will involve the construction of an authentic Chinese garden in Louise McKinney Riverfront Park and construction of a public Chinese Library wing at the Chinese Multi-Cultural Centre.

Anne McLellan, Minister of Health, on behalf of Allan Rock, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Infrastructure, and Stephen Owen, Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Indian Affairs and Northern Development), together with Thomas Lukaszuk, MLA for Edmonton Castle Downs, on behalf of Ed Stelmach, Alberta Minister of Transportation, made the announcement at the Edmonton Chinese Multi-Cultural Centre.

"Both the Chinese Garden and the Edmonton Public Chinese Library are important additions to Edmonton's cultural landscape," said Minister McLellan. "These projects will benefit all of Edmonton, both culturally and esthetically, and celebrate the contributions of a community that has been a vital part of our city's history for more than a century."

"These two projects are a good example of ICAP's cultural component and partnering with a private sector interest," said Lukaszuk.

The Chinese public library will be an important resource for Albertans wanting to learn more about China. Raymond Ng, Chairman of the Edmonton Chinese Multi-Cultural Centre, notes, "The Chinatown Public Chinese Library will promote Canada/China understanding and business developments through books and multi-media information on China."

The Edmonton Chinese Garden Society has plans for a truly beautiful addition for all to enjoy on Edmonton's riverfront. "This garden, featuring authentic Chinese horticulture and architecture, is designed for the whole community," says George Ng, society co-chair.

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To date, 455 projects worth \$371.4 million have been announced in Alberta under the program. Over the program's life, the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program will help direct at least \$508 million in federal, provincial and municipal funding towards: municipal water and wastewater systems; municipal roads, bridges and transit; affordable housing; solid waste disposal and recycling; tourism, cultural or recreation facilities; or projects to improve energy efficiencies of municipal buildings. The Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program is a partnership between the federal, provincial and municipal governments and in some cases, private-sector organizations.

The ICAP Management Committee oversees the program's administration and is composed of representatives from the Governments of Canada and Alberta, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C).

"Infrastructure needs are always great in our member municipalities," said John Trefanenko on behalf of the AUMA. "The Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program provides a welcome funding boost to support important infrastructure-related projects."

"The funding support offered by ICAP allows our member municipalities to take on needed infrastructure improvements," said Eugene Wauters on behalf of the AAMD&C. "Infrastructure is a high priority for municipal districts and counties."

The Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program agreement was signed Oct. 10, 2000. Funding for ICAP was provided for in the February 2003 federal budget and is built into the existing fiscal framework.

**NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS:** Details of the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta projects approved are attached.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Gordon Eckert  
Communications Manager  
Western Economic Diversification Canada  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Tel: (780) 495-3370  
(Toll-Free 1-888-338-9378)  
Cell: (780) 991-7432  
ICAP Web site: [www.icap-pica.ca](http://www.icap-pica.ca)

Trent Bancarz  
Communications  
Alberta Transportation  
Edmonton, Alberta  
(780) 427-0623

(In Alberta, dial 310-0000 for toll-free connection outside of Edmonton)

# Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program

## Alberta Fact Sheet

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### **Partnership Program**

- The Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP) is a partnership involving federal, provincial and municipal governments that also allows for private-sector participation. All three levels of government played an important part in the design of this six-year program. The program and funding entitlements for Alberta communities were announced in October 2000.
- Each level of government (federal, provincial and municipal) contributes up to one-third of the total eligible costs of any given project. In today's \$909,500 announcement, federal and provincial contributions total \$566,666. For the 455 projects and \$371.4 million announced since June 8, 2001, federal and provincial contributions total approximately \$213.4 million.
- In Alberta, the program is implemented by Western Economic Diversification Canada and Alberta Transportation and is administered by a joint secretariat.

### **Grassroots Driven**

- ICAP is designed with a bottom-up approach. Accordingly, municipalities play an important role in the program. The majority of projects will address local infrastructure needs identified by the municipality.

### **Program Priorities**

- ICAP's **first priority** is "green" municipal infrastructure. Green infrastructure includes projects related to water and wastewater systems, water management, solid waste management and recycling, and capital expenditures to retrofit or improve the energy efficiency of buildings and facilities owned by local municipalities.

The Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program agreement specifies that a minimum 40 per cent of the total value of all approved projects must be invested in green municipal infrastructure.

- **Other priorities** of the program include local transportation, cultural and recreational facilities, infrastructure supporting tourism, rural and remote telecommunications, high-speed Internet access for local public institutions and affordable housing. ICAP is an important part of federal and provincial efforts to improve the quality of life for all Canadians and help lay the foundation for long-term economic growth.
- To ensure the infrastructure needs of rural communities are considered, a minimum 26 per cent of total approved costs for all projects in Alberta must be invested in projects proposed by rural municipalities.

## Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program Project Summaries

| Project  | Location | Combined<br>Federal /<br>Provincial<br>Contribution | Total Project Costs |
|--|----------|---|---------------------|
| Edmonton Public Chinese Library                          | Edmonton | \$316,666   | \$508,250           |
| Construction of a Chinese Garden in Louise Mckinney Park | Edmonton | \$250,000   | \$401,250           |
| <b>TOTAL PROJECTS: 2</b>                                 |          | <b>\$566,666</b>                                    | <b>\$909,500</b>    |

### **Edmonton Chinatown Multi-cultural Centre Foundation The Edmonton Public Chinese Library**

**\$508,250**

The plan to add a library wing to the Chinese Multi-cultural Centre responds to the increasing demand for information about the world's most populous country. The Library will provide both cultural and financial information about China, with special services available for owners of small businesses looking to expand into Asian markets. About 20,000 people are expected to use the facility's services annually. This project is supported by donations from more than 20 community organizations.

**Contact person:** Phyllis Becker, 780-424-8124

### **Construction of Chinese Garden in Louise McKinney Park**

**\$401,250**

The Edmonton Chinese Garden project, to be built in the Louise McKinney Riverfront Park, just below the Shaw Conference Centre in downtown Edmonton, will create a heritage area with the design and construction of an authentic Chinese garden, featuring traditional Chinese horticulture and architecture. The project will include a pavilion, stone bridge, rock garden, dragon wall and a monument.

**Contact person:** George Ng, 780-432-1792

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