



---

# News Release

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 11, 2009

## **CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN INITIATIVE IMPROVES LOCAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

### **Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program Accessible to Saskatchewan Communities**

**Saskatoon, Saskatchewan** – Local hockey rinks, swimming pools, and other community sites throughout the West will be eligible to receive funding for upgrades, renovations, and fix-ups thanks to the new Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program (RIInC) in Canada's Economic Action Plan. Funding for the RIInC program is now available through Western Economic Diversification Canada.

"For decades, community centres across Western Canada have been a gathering place for families, friends, and neighbours," said the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification. "The RIInC program will stimulate benefits to the economy, create jobs and contribute to the health and quality of life in our local communities."

This two-year national initiative is expected to provide a timely, targeted, and temporary stimulus to the Canadian economy, while ensuring that local families and communities can continue to count on their local fields, arenas and pools for decades to come.

"In addition to stimulating local economies through increased construction, the projects funded under RIInC will leave communities with stronger, safer and more sustainable recreational facilities," said Minister of Agriculture Gerry Ritz. "I am proud to be part of a government that is making smart investments in communities across Saskatchewan."

The federal government will fund up to 33 percent of eligible costs. The remaining funding will need to be sourced from provincial or municipal governments, community organizations or the private sector. Projects must begin and materially conclude construction before March 31, 2011. The maximum federal contribution to any one project under this program will be \$1 million.

Program and application details may be obtained at [www.wd-deo.gc.ca](http://www.wd-deo.gc.ca). Project proposals are due by May 29, 2009 and projects needing more time to develop have until June 19, 2009.

-30-

**For additional information, contact:**

Lisa Hutniak  
Minister's Office  
Western Economic Diversification  
[Lisa.Hutniak@wd.gc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Hutniak@wd.gc.ca)

Toll-Free Number: 1 888 338-WEST (9378)  
Web Site: WD is online at [www.wd-deo.gc.ca](http://www.wd-deo.gc.ca)  
TTY: 1 877 303-3388

***A stronger West. A stronger Canada***

## BACKGROUND

### Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program

The Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program provides \$500 million nationally for projects to rehabilitate recreational facilities across Canada that can be completed by March 31, 2011.

Through RInC, the Government of Canada has committed to supporting upgrades and repairs to existing recreational assets.

The program is designed to provide a timely, targeted stimulus to the economy, and to help mitigate the impacts of the global economic recession by increasing the total amount of construction activity related to recreational infrastructure. Through the rehabilitation of recreational infrastructure, this program also encourages participation in physical activity and community building.

The initial RInC allocation for Western Canada, to be delivered by Western Economic Diversification Canada, is almost \$54 million. The remaining funding, over the next two years, will be allocated based on the number of applications submitted to the Department. Projects will be selected on the basis of merit and construction readiness.

The federal government will fund up to 33 per cent of eligible costs. The remaining funding will need to be sourced from provincial or municipal governments, community organizations, or the private sector. The maximum federal contribution to any one project under this program will be \$1 million.

### Program Eligibility

#### Eligible applicants:

- Municipal and local governments, agencies, and provincial entities that provide municipal-type services to communities;
- Not-for-profit entity;
- First Nation governments, Band or Tribal Councils, or their legally-designated representatives

#### Eligible Projects:

- Arenas
- Gymnasias
- Swimming pools
- Sports fields
- Tennis, basketball, volleyball or other sport-specific courts;
- Parks, fitness trails, and bike paths;

- Other multi-purpose facilities that have physical recreation activity as the primary rationale.

**Eligible projects must also:**

- Fall under one of the above eligible categories;
- Normally be for the rehabilitation or repair of existing infrastructure, including new construction that is either adding to or replacing existing recreational infrastructure assets or capacity;
- Begin and materially conclude construction before March 31, 2011; and,
- Not have otherwise occurred, as proposed, without support from the RInC program, i.e. be incremental.

**Application**

Projects must meet the mandatory requirements as outlined in program eligibility section. Furthermore, projects will be recommended and approved on the basis of merit. The application form is available online at [www.wd-deo.gc.ca](http://www.wd-deo.gc.ca). Project proposals are due by May 29, 2009 and projects needing more time to develop have until June 19, 2009.

**Project Selection**

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements described above, projects will be assessed on:

- construction-readiness;
- planned completion date;
- incrementality; and,
- the extent to which other funding is leveraged.

Depending on the volume of applications received, other criteria may be applied.

For more information, please contact:

**WD Toll-Free Number:** 1-888-338-WEST (9378)

**Teletypewriter (TTY):** 1-877-303-3388

**Website:** [www.wd-deo.gc.ca](http://www.wd-deo.gc.ca)

**Email:** [rinc-ilc@wd-deo.gc.ca](mailto:rinc-ilc@wd-deo.gc.ca)