

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION UNDERWAY

Medicine Hat - Construction on the expansion of Medicine Hat's Water Treatment Plant is now underway, Frank Wetsch, Manager of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants for the City of Medicine Hat, announced today.

The expansion project totals an estimated \$22.5 million in capital expenditures and will support growth and development in Medicine Hat well into the future. Regulatory requirements combined with increased demand for water have resulted in the need to expand the Water Treatment Plant. The expansion work also includes the installation of UV Technology which will help meet future quality standards.

The project began in September of 2004 with City Council approving award of the project engineering to Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd., leading water treatment experts in western Canada. Associated Engineering, along with City staff, has been working hard over the past year to complete the preliminary and detailed design work for this project. The construction contract was awarded to Maple Reinders Inc., an Edmonton firm, in October.

"During the construction period, the facility will continue to provide high-quality water," says Wetsch. "However, we would like the public to note that due to construction traffic, the bike path from the Trans-Canada Highway Bridge to the Gas City Campground has been closed for safety reasons".

The project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2007.

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