
News Release

For immediate release

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Government of Canada Invests in the Centre of Integration for African Immigrants

New Westminster, British Columbia – The Centre of Integration for African Immigrants (CIAI) is moving forward with plans to upgrade a multi-purpose activity centre thanks to the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) program, a major job-creating investment from Canada's Economic Action Plan.

"This investment will help upgrade a facility that is so important for the African-Canadian community, providing increased recreational opportunities for local families," said Senator Yonah Martin, on behalf of the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification.

With this investment, the CIAI is constructing a gymnasium, meeting hall, kitchen, showers and change rooms. Project activities include renovating existing space, upgrading building systems and purchasing and installing equipment. These renovations will increase recreational and organized sports opportunities for African-Canadians who have recently moved to Canada.

Funding of \$275,000 is provided through the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) program as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

"On behalf of the Centre of Integration for African Immigrants I would like to thank the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program for renovations on the multi-purpose activity Centre and related facilities, these improvements will greatly increase the recreational and organized sport opportunities for participants and ultimately provide a place where the community can interact with each other," said Paul Mulangu, Executive Director of the Centre of Integration for African Immigrants.

The CIAI was founded in 2001 through volunteer efforts, and is a hub of community activity including arts, culture and sport opportunities for all ages.

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The Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program will invest \$500 million in recreational facilities across Canada over a two-year period. It will provide a temporary economic stimulus that will help reduce the impacts of the global recession while renewing, upgrading and expanding recreational infrastructure in Canadian communities.

Visit the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program in the West, or Canada's Economic Action Plan for more information.