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programmes

Harper issued the following
statement highlighting
some of the government's
significant accomplish-
ments in 2012:

"Throughout 2012, our
Government continued to
generate results for
Canadians both at home
and abroad.

"First and foremost, we
continued to successfully
navigate the turbulent
global economy in 2012,
emerging with some of the
strongest job growth num-
bers among G-7 countries.
This was accomplished
while reducing the country's
deficit and creating a leaner,
more efficient public ser-
vice.

"The international com-
munity has taken note of
our success this year: Forbes
magazine has ranked
Canada as number one in
its annual review of the best
countries for business; for
the fifth year in a row, the
World Economic Forum
has rated Canada's banking
system as the world's sound-
est; and both the IMF and
OECD expect Canada to
be among the strongest
growing economies in the
G-7 next year.

"In 2012 we continued to
aggressively pursue trade
and investment agreements
that will benefit Canadian
businesses and families.
Canada significantly
increased its engagement in
Asia, joining the Trans-
Pacific Partnership trade
negotiations; becoming an
observer to the Pacific
Alliance; concluded foreign
investment promotion and
protection agreements
(FIPA) with China, Senegal
and Tanzania; concluding
negotiations for the
Administrative
Arrangement between
Canada and India that will
allow the implementation
of the Nuclear Cooperation
Agreement (NCA); launch-
ing free trade negotiations
with Japan; announcing
exploratory free trade talks
with Thailand; and expand-
ing the Canada-China Air

country, laying the
foundation for future
growth and prosperity. This
includes: supporting proj-
ects at Lower Churchill
Falls that will generate
enormous benefits for the
people of Newfoundland
and Labrador and Nova
Scotia; signing an agree-
ment for the construction of
the new Detroit River
International Crossing;
rolling out the Community
Infrastructure Improvement
Fund, which will help
improve existing communi-
ty infrastructure across the
country; and making real
and substantive progress on
the Beyond the Border
Action Plan and on
Regulatory Cooperation
with the United States.

"We also continued to
strengthen our relationship
with First Nations, includ-
ing through commitments
made at the historic Crown-
First Nations Gathering;
announcing support for
First Nation Education to
improve school infrastruc-
ture and address literacy;
and introducing legislation
to protect drinking water in
First Nation communities.

"On the security front, we
have taken numerous steps
at home to target crime and
terrorism and to provide
greater support and protec-
tion for victims of crime,
including new income sup-
port for parents of murdered
or missing children.
Internationally, we contin-
ued to work with the United
States to enhance border
security, and we established
a new initiative to support
police training and border
security in the Americas.
With respect to counter-
terrorism, we witnessed the
adoption of Canada's first
Counter-Terrorism Strategy
and committed to renewing
Canada's Global Partnership
Program to reduce the
threat from weapons of

See Story..... Page 11

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List is subject to additions and deletions. This listing is only a guide
and in no way a guarantee of size, description or year.

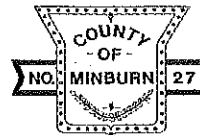
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NEWS RELEASE



LIBRARY FUNDING

Vegreville Centennial Library Board in their December 10, 2012
letter asked Reeve and Council to reconsider the County 2013
funding in the amount of \$18,000 as it was insufficient for the library
to continue providing the same level of service to the residents of
the County of Minburn.

Council at the December 18, 2012 meeting further reviewed
information from the Vegreville Centennial Library Board. The
Town of Vegreville chose to build and operate a library to provide a
higher level of service for their residents which requires substantial
funding to operate. Council's position is that we should provide a
reasonable level of library service for County residents at
Vegreville, Innisfree and Mannville libraries.

It is noted that the provincial average library funding provided by
municipalities with population between 3,001-5,000 is \$26.46 per
capita. While the Town of Vegreville's funding is \$55.11 per capita,
it is Town Council's decision to operate a higher level of library
service, and County Council is not going to interfere with their
budget decision.

County Council received mixed feelings from the rural residents
regarding increasing funding or holding the line, but Council chose
to be more fair and in line with the provincial municipal library
funding average of \$26.46 per capita and will amend the 2013
budget. We thank the rural residents for their comments.

Therefore, it's County Council's decision to provide additional
funding for the libraries on condition that Vegreville Centennial
Library Board and others maintain the same membership fees for
all residents and do not differentiate between urban and rural
members.

The County of Minburn will provide funding to Vegreville Centennial
Library in 2013 in the amount of \$46,837.37 for 1,770 residents
instead of \$18,000.

The County of Minburn pays a yearly requisition to Northern Lights
Library System for their operation. In 2012, the amount was
\$30,202.90. The Vegreville Centennial Library will also receive
from the Northern Lights Library System the provincial rural
services grant in the amount of approximately \$10,130 for 2013.

County Council appreciates the library services provided for
County residents by the Vegreville Centennial Library, Innisfree
Library and Mannville Library.

Reeve Eric Anderson and Council

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