

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund promotes a cleaner environment by supporting the City of Cranbrook's wastewater treatment infrastructure upgrades

January 26, 2011, Cranbrook, B.C. – John Dooley, Mayor of Nelson, B.C., and member of the National Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of State for Sport and Member of Parliament for Saanich–Gulf Islands, today announced Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) support totalling \$4,048,800 for the City of Cranbrook. The city is using \$674,800 in grant funding and \$3,374,000 in low-interest loan funding to conduct facility and operational upgrades of its wastewater treatment and disposal systems that will lead to a cleaner environment, lower operational costs and reduced energy consumption.

“FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments,” said Mayor Dooley. “The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.”

“The Government of Canada is assisting municipalities across the country in achieving their goal of a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians through the Green Municipal Fund,” said Minister Lunn. “Today's announcement is another example of how the government — in partnership with the FCM — is helping Cranbrook build a greener future for its citizens.”

The city's upgrades of its wastewater treatment and disposal systems are designed to meet ten-year flow projections and include a new pump station; a third, larger storage pond; a new coagulation injection facility; electrical system upgrades; and construction of a new emergency outfall to the Kootenay River and a river crossing to serve the irrigation needs of ranchers.

The project's tertiary treatment process will reduce the concentrations of total suspended solids to 15 milligrams per litre (mg/L), oxygen demand to 10 mg/L, and residual chlorine to 0.01 mg/L. Other concentrations of pollutants, such as phosphorous, will also be significantly reduced.

These upgrades will reduce the overall annual cost of wastewater facility operations, including power consumption, by 42 per cent. The project will see the reuse of most of the treated effluent for crop irrigation. This reuse will, in turn, reduce the demand on well and potable water while helping the livestock and agriculture industries to become more economically viable. With the collaboration of local wildlife organizations, effluent will also be used to enhance natural habitat through wetlands discharge.

“The City of Cranbrook appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for the upgrading of our wastewater treatment infrastructure,” said Mayor Scott Manjak. “The project demonstrates our commitment to keep our city green while offering significant facility operational cost and energy consumption reductions. This will help us to develop as a centre of excellence in the use of reclaimed water by encouraging research agencies and universities to conduct research on more efficient ways to use reclaimed water as a resource. As a result of these socio-economic and environmental benefits, Cranbrook will become an even better place to live, work and play.”

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish the Green Municipal Fund™. The Fund supports partnerships and leveraging of both public and private sector funding to reach higher standards of air, water and soil quality, and climate protection.

FCM has been the national voice of municipal governments since 1901. It fosters sustainable communities enjoying a high quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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