



## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports Clairmont Heights Area Structure Plan for sustainability in the County of Grande Prairie**

**March 17, 2011, Grande Prairie, Alta.** – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and Member of Parliament Chris Warkentin, representative for Peace River, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant for the County of Grande Prairie. The County has invested the \$70,216 in funding to conduct an area structure plan (ASP) for Clairmont Heights to guide the area's future development and ensure its economic, environmental and social sustainability.

"FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments," said Mr. Cunningham. "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 Mr. Warkentin. "Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — is helping the County of Grande Prairie build a greener future for our citizens."

Following project initiation and an analysis of current issues, ASP project leaders will identify sustainability targets and measures through focus group consultations with landowners, residents and other stakeholders. Two facilitated roundtable workshops will allow the public to evaluate alternative development concepts and lead to a draft ASP. A subsequent public open house will allow for discussion of the draft plan.

The ASP will aim to create a liveable community through various transportation options including walking, cycling, cars and public transportation. Mixed-use development will include a diverse range of public and private spaces such as a town centre, parks, trail systems, commercial development and higher-density residential development. The ASP will propose plans to develop a system of greenways for recreational use and as ecological corridors to protect and link environmentally sensitive areas, water bodies, wetlands, tree stands and stormwater management facilities.

To maintain the environmental health of Clairmont Lake, the plan will describe potential measures for water conservation and wastewater management. It will also consider waste management and energy conservation measures such as source-separation of construction waste, encouraging development to achieve LEED® certification and minimizing the use of street lights.

“The County of Grande Prairie appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for the Clairmont Heights Area Structure Plan because it will help us create a more sustainable community,” said Reeve Everett McDonald. “The plan will lead to a mixed-use residential community that is supplemented by open space, recreation and tourism-related features as well as commercial and light industrial development. In this way the County of Grande Prairie will become a champion of best practices for economic, environmental and social sustainability that benefit all of its citizens.”

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 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 the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.*

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