

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the City of Hamilton's Multi-Residential Diversion Optimization Strategy**

**March 10, 2011, Hamilton, Ont.** – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and the Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Natural Resources, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant for the City of Hamilton. The City put the \$62,361 in funding toward developing a strategy to optimize waste diversion in its multi-residential buildings.

“FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments,” said 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 Minister Paradis. “Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — has been helping Hamilton build a greener future for our citizens.”

After completing a source-separated organics collection pilot project, the City implemented a full scale curbside organics collection program in spring 2006. However, 30 per cent of Hamilton's households live in multi-residential units, which were not serviced on the original program. Hamilton continued to work towards its Master Plan objective of implementing a three-stream waste collection system (recyclables, organics and residual garbage) with a target of achieving a 65 per cent diversion rate by 2011, exceeding the Province of Ontario's directive to reach a 60 per cent diversion rate by 2008.

The City developed a multi-residential waste diversion strategy under the direction of the City's Manager of Solid Waste Planning. With the assistance of the Hamilton Waste Reduction Task Force, the City compared current multi-residential waste diversion programs in other municipalities in Canada and the United States, identifying physical barriers and researching construction design features. The project team selected 10 buildings across the city to participate in four waste audits and analyzed the data gathered; prepared options for improving recycling collection rates and initiating organics collection; designed and prepared a targeted strategy and educational materials for residents and building managers; and designed and distributed an annual waste collection calendar for multi-residential units.

Community consultations were incorporated through monthly updates provided to the Task Force, consisting of 14 community members representing the city's geographic regions, as well as the business, environment and education sectors.

It became apparent that most buildings could be serviced with the same type of carts and trucks as those used in the curbside program; apartment buildings were added where possible to existing or modified curbside collection routes from 2008 to 2010. By the end of 2010, over 900

buildings with about 45,000 dwelling units had full access to recycling and food scrap collection programs. That represents approximately 90 percent of the multi-residential buildings in Hamilton. Green cart tonnages increased by about 12 percent from 2008 to 2010, some of which can be attributed to the multi-residential program.

“Providing apartment buildings with waste diversion opportunities improves the City’s waste diversion to get us closer to our target of 65 percent diversion from landfill,” offered Mayor Bob Bratina. “With the partnership of the FCM Green Municipal Fund, Hamilton is proud to pioneer the organics program in apartments. And waste diversion is a key element to sustaining the capacity of the City’s only operating landfill in Glanbrook into the future.”

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 the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.*

– 30 –

For information:

#### **City of Hamilton**

Kelly Anderson  
Public Affairs Coordinator  
Public Works  
City of Hamilton  
Tel: 905-546-2424, ext. 1430  
E-mail: [Kelly.Anderson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Kelly.Anderson@hamilton.ca)  
[www.hamilton.ca](http://www.hamilton.ca)

#### **FCM’s Green Municipal Fund**

Maurice Gingues  
Media Relations Officer  
Green Municipal Fund  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Tel.: 613-907-6399  
Fax: 613-244-1515  
E-mail: [mgingues@fcm.ca](mailto:mgingues@fcm.ca)  
[www.fcm.ca/gmf](http://www.fcm.ca/gmf)

#### **Natural Resources Canada**

Richard Walker  
Director of Communications  
Office of the Minister  
Natural Resources Canada  
Tel.: 613-996-2007

Media Relations  
Natural Resources Canada  
Tel.: 613-992-4447