

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Unity Plan – Huntsville's Guide to a Sustainable Future

February 4, 2011, Huntsville, Ont. – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and Tony Clement, Minister of Industry and Member of Parliament for Parry Sound-Muskoka, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant contribution for the Town of Huntsville. The town put the \$94,320 in funding toward the development of a sustainable community plan.

“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 Clement. “Today’s announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — is helping Huntsville build a greener future for our citizens.”

The Unity Plan – Huntsville’s Guide to a Sustainable Future – will enhance existing planning documents and develop a framework that integrates natural, social, cultural, economic, environmental, and governance considerations into municipal planning and priority setting. Building on the success of Huntsville’s 2008 Community Master Plan and grassroots interest in sustainable practices, the plan uses ecosystem approaches to anchor municipal management and decision making, foster environmental protection, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourage partnerships, provide leadership in community education and engagement, and incorporate implementation and evaluation processes.

A variety of tools and techniques were used to consult year-round residents, seasonal residents and visitors to the community. The findings and process experience from this project will be useful to other small communities with a strong tourism sector and a large number of seasonal residents. The 2010 G8 Summit website also provided a unique opportunity to demonstrate the town’s sustainable planning and design principles to the world.

“The Town of Huntsville appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our sustainable initiative,” said Mayor Claude Doughty. “This is a turning point for Huntsville as we embrace the Unity Plan and look forward to the tangible impact that this will have on Huntsville’s 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.

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For information:

Town of Huntsville

Colleen MacDonald
Manager of Parks, Cemeteries and Environment
Town of Huntsville
Tel.: 705 789 6421 ext 3028
E-mail: colleen.macdonald@huntsville.ca
www.town.huntsville.on.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
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

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