



NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund Supports Renewable Energy Production by Committing \$2,970,000 to the Regional County Municipality of Minganie to Help Finance the Magpie Hydroelectric Generating Station

June 20, 2008, Rivière-Saint-Jean, QC – Jean Perrault, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Mayor of the City of Sherbrooke, and the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources, announced today a \$2,970,000 Green Municipal Fund loan to the Regional County Municipality of Minganie to help finance the construction of the recently completed Magpie Hydroelectric Generating Station. This run-of-river hydroelectric generating station, which replaces an abandoned hydroelectric facility located on the Magpie River in the Village of Rivière-Saint-Jean, will serve as a producer of clean and renewable energy for the region.

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

“Through the Green Municipal Fund, the Government of Canada is assisting municipalities across the country to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians,” said Minister Lunn. “With the state-of-the-art and energy efficient Magpie Hydroelectric Generating Station Minganie is demonstrating real environmental leadership, setting an excellent example for all of us.”

The new hydroelectric generating station represents the renewal of a site closed in 1989. Its renewable energy production is 40.6 megawatts, which represents an increase of more than 38 megawatts by comparison with the former two-megawatt facility. Magpie will provide power for about 18,000 homes.

“The Magpie Hydroelectric Generating Station is the result of a partnership between the Regional County Municipality of Minganie and Hydroméga Services Incorporated that will be beneficial for all Minganie residents”, says Municipality Prefect Pierre Cormier. “Magpie will supply renewable energy that will light and heat many homes in Minganie. And it will do this while saving what the Regional County Municipality estimates would be 62,858 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions into our local environment every year.”

The Government of Canada has endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with \$550 million to establish and manage 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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For information on the Regional County Municipality of Minganie, visit <http://mrc.minganie.org>

For information on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, visit <http://www.fcm.ca>

For information on the Green Municipal Fund, including details of other approved projects and studies, visit <http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca>

For information on Natural Resources Canada, visit <http://nrcan-rncan.gc.ca>

For information on Environment Canada, visit <http://www.ec.gc.ca>