



DECEMBER 17, 2008

New agreement gives New Brunswick municipalities complete access to low-interest loans from FCM's Green Municipal Fund

December 17, 2008, Fredericton, New Brunswick – An agreement between the New Brunswick Department of Local Government and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has been reached. This agreement gives all New Brunswick municipalities complete access to low-interest loans from the FCM's Green Municipal Fund.

Jean Perrault, president of FCM and mayor of Sherbrooke, and New Brunswick Minister of Local Government Bernard LeBlanc made the announcement today.

"We are pleased to announce that by working closely with the Government of New Brunswick and the province's municipal associations, we have reached an agreement to ensure all New Brunswick municipalities enjoy full access to FCM's Green Municipal Fund," said Perrault.

The three municipal associations of the province include the Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick, the Cities of New Brunswick Association and the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick.

"The municipal associations were supportive of achieving access to the Green Municipal Fund, recognizing early the potential interest savings for New Brunswick municipalities offered by this program," LeBlanc said. "They were strong advocates for the program and worked closely with the Province in getting access to these funds."

FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers grants for feasibility studies, field tests and sustainable community plans, which have always been available to New Brunswick communities.

In total, the FCM's Green Municipal Fund has approved 31 grant applications from New Brunswick municipalities, totaling \$2.5 million.

Following a special agreement with the provincial government, municipalities now also have access to low-interest Green Municipal Fund loans through the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation.

"I am pleased that municipalities are now enabled to take advantage of the loan component of the Green Municipal Fund," LeBlanc said. "This low-interest loan program, combined with the grant component of the Fund, is another important source of funding for municipalities. By partnering with organizations like FCM, we are assisting municipalities in improving and renewing their local infrastructure as we progress on our road to self-sufficiency."

"FCM's Green Municipal Fund is an excellent way for all municipalities in New Brunswick to access low-interest loans and grants that will help them invest in their local sustainable infrastructure projects," said Perrault. "In the coming months, the Green Municipal Fund will offer online training workshops to help New Brunswick municipalities navigate an increasingly streamlined application process."

GMF also offers knowledge resources that include a suite of publications, training workshops and programs that help municipal governments share expertise and strengthen their ability to set and surpass their sustainability goals.

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, 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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