

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the City of Airdrie's integrated community sustainability plan

December 16, 2009, Airdrie, Alta. – Basil Stewart, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I., and Blake Richards, member of Parliament for Wild Rose, on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant for the City of Airdrie. The city will use the \$171,325 in funding to develop an integrated community sustainability plan (ICSP) that will enable the city to adopt a strategic and deliberate approach to growth.

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

The City of Airdrie is developing a new community plan — AirdrieONE — using The Natural Step framework as a guideline to ensure that it moves the community toward sustainability in an integrated way. The initiative has built and will continue to build capacity within the community and among city staff. The city will integrate information gathered in past initiatives, consult community partners, and develop an ICSP process and governance plan.

Implementation of the ICSP is anticipated to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent and decrease water use by 30 per cent—through measures including building retrofits and enhanced public transportation—by 2015. The planning approach can be extended to the larger region, and neighbouring municipalities can work together to solve problems and increase regional sustainability.

“The City of Airdrie appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our sustainability initiative,” said Airdrie Mayor Linda Bruce. “This funding gives us the capacity to continue building our sustainability plan and engage citizens, helping us to become a leader in sustainability.”

The Green Municipal Fund is an endowment financed by the Government of Canada and managed by FCM. 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 the quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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