



NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund Commits \$1,000,000 to the City of Vaughan for "Greening Vaughan"—a Management Plan to Divert Waste from Landfill

January 13, 2009, Vaughan, ON – Town of Richmond Hill Councillor and Deputy Mayor Brenda Hogg, representing the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announced today a \$1,000,000 Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for the City of Vaughan. The City is investing the funds in the implementation of a comprehensive waste management plan called "Greening Vaughan" to divert waste from landfill.

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

"Our government 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 Raitt. "Today's announcement is another example of how the Government of Canada – in partnership with the FCM – is helping Vaughan build a greener future for its citizens."

Launched in September 2005, "Greening Vaughan" focuses on diverting waste from landfill, through improved recycling and household organic waste programs. Under the plan Vaughan residents have obtained the necessary tools, programs and encouragement to divert over 60 per cent of waste from their garbage. Diversion objectives are being met primarily by way of an improved recycling collection program as well as the provision of a separate household organic collection program.

"The Greening Vaughan program is doing its part to solve the pressing environmental problems of landfill availability and location," said Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson. "In 2008 the City was able to meet and exceed Ontario's provincial waste reduction target of 60 per cent. Vaughan residents now have the opportunity to participate in an improved recycling collection program and a new household organic collection program that together add up to a real and measurable benefit for our environment. With Green Municipal Fund support we can continue to make environmental gains."

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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