



NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund Supports the City of Port Alberni's Waterfront Brownfield Redevelopment Study

Oct. 2, 2009, Port Alberni, B.C. – FCM President Basil Stewart, and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I. and James Lunney, MP for Nanaimo – Alberni, on behalf of the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announced today a Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for the City of Port Alberni. The City will use the \$95,000 grant to conduct a preliminary site investigation of a municipally-owned brownfield property in the City's waterfront district.

"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 Basil Stewart, and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I. "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 Mr. Lunney. "Today's announcement of a \$95,000 grant to conduct a preliminary site investigation is another example of how the Government is working in partnership with FCM to help the citizens of Port Alberni build a greener future."

As part of the Port Alberni Uptown and Waterfront Redevelopment Strategy, the City will conduct a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment on the former Alberni Plywood industrial property. Previous investigations of the site indicate that it contains localized contamination. The Phase II investigation will further identify and measure contaminants and determine technical requirements, costs, and associated risks for the site's remediation and redevelopment. Measuring hydrocarbon concentrations at the site will be conducted using ultraviolet-induced fluorescence technologies.

A field test of a new high-temperature thermal desorption remediation technique will also be included as part of the Phase II investigation. Successful remediation of the site will result in verifiable reductions in soil and groundwater contamination at this important waterfront area. Future redevelopment options will seek to encourage economic development and employment opportunities while increasing public waterfront access.

"The support provided through the Green Municipal Fund is a vital element as the City of Port Alberni executes its strategy for improvements to the City's waterfront area," said City of Port Alberni Mayor, Ken McRae. "Brownfield sites offer their unique challenges for redevelopment that go hand-in-hand with tremendous opportunities for sustainable community growth and long-term economic benefit."

The Green Municipal Fund is an endowment financed by the Government of Canada and managed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. 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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