NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the District of North Vancouver's sustainable community plan

NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C., December 14, 2009 – Basil Stewart, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I., and Andrew Saxton, member of Parliament for North Vancouver, on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant for the District of North Vancouver (DNV). The district will use the $350,000 in funding to develop a sustainable community plan that will serve as its revised Official Community Plan (OCP).

"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."

"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 Saxton. "Today's announcement is another example of how the Government of Canada — in partnership with FCM — is helping the district build a greener future for our citizens."

The district's new sustainable community plan/OCP will define sustainability in the context of an inner suburb. It will address global trends such as climate change and alternative energy generation, regional issues such as a rapidly aging population and rising housing costs, and local concerns such as a nominal growth rate, school closures, and aging infrastructure. The plan will also integrate sustainability principles identified by North Vancouver's municipal council, which are based on the Natural Step sustainability framework.

The GMF contribution is allowing the district to go above the traditional requirements of an OCP to fully integrate sustainability within the district's policies and plans. This will be one of the first instances of a sustainable community plan being fully integrated with the community's OCP. It will serve as an example and provide tools for other Canadian municipalities to achieve their sustainability goals.

"The Green Municipal Fund grant provides a tremendous opportunity for the district to move forward on sustainability by embedding it into our Official Community Plan with a robust vision, effective policies, strategies and targets developed with the community," said North Vancouver District Mayor Richard Walton. "The level of community engagement of this plan is unprecedented and could not be achieved without the assistance of this grant."

The district is currently completing the "vision" phase of the OCP process, which is the second phase of a five-phase process. To date, over 2,500 residents have provided input into the process, through surveys, workshops and other public events. Major products resulting from this phase are the plan's vision, principles and goals, which will guide policy development and frame the rest of the plan. The district anticipates that its new sustainable community plan/OCP will be completed by the end of 2010 or early 2011. More information on the District of North Vancouver's planning process is available on its planning website at <www.identity.dnv.org>.

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 quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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