



## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the City of Chilliwack's air quality, energy and greenhouse gas action plan**

**August 12, 2010, Chilliwack, B.C.** – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, announced today a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant for the City of Chilliwack. The city has invested the \$33,000 in funding to develop an air quality, energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) action plan addressing municipal and community-wide activities.

"FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments," said Cunningham. "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 Minister Strahl. "Today's announcement is another example of how our government – in partnership with the FCM – is helping Chilliwack build a greener future for our citizens."

The Chilliwack plan is establishing initiatives and regulatory tools to improve air quality and reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions.

The project team is reviewing government regulations, creating a vision statement, and developing goals, targets and indicators. The team will identify key actions that could help to achieve the targets. They will also analyze the potential actions and prioritize them based on relative benefit, level of effort, contribution to the "triple bottom line" (economic, social and environmental outcomes) and life-cycle considerations.

The resulting action plan will include recommended initiatives involving various municipal departments, the general public, and specific sectors of the community. The action plan will form an important part of the city's Environmental Strategic Plan, which is currently being developed.

"The City of Chilliwack appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our air quality, energy and greenhouse gas action plan," said Mayor Sharon Gaetz. "This funding has proven to be very useful in the pursuit of tools to improve the local environment, said Gaetz. "We are confident it will help us be more efficient and successful in reaching our environmental, social and economic goals. We're one step closer to building a greener future for Chilliwack citizens."

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish 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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**FCM's Green Municipal Fund**

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