

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Town of Cochrane's Sustainability Plan

July 7, 2010, Cochrane, Alta. – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and Blake Richards, Member of Parliament for Wild Rose announced today a Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for the Town of Cochrane. The town will use the \$173,750 in funding to develop an integrated sustainability plan.

"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 Mr. Richards. "Today's announcement is another example of how our government– in partnership with the FCM – is helping Cochrane build a greener future for our citizens."

With rapid growth expected to double the town's population in 10 years, Cochrane has used the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association's Comprehensive Guide to Municipal Sustainability Planning to create an integrated sustainability plan. The town's sustainability working group, whose members come from all municipal departments, helped develop this merged sustainability umbrella plan for all other town plans (municipal development; parks, recreation, and culture; social; transportation and police).

By making appropriate choices from established tools such as the Melbourne Principles, The Natural Step, and the Earth Charter, the town used a systems approach to ensure that its plan does not simply address symptoms. Cochrane wants to reach a deep understanding of the current situation, existing assets, and historical trends, and create a shared focus on targets and indicators around which the community can rally.

"The Town of Cochrane appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our sustainable initiative," said Cochrane Mayor Truper McBride. "The Cochrane Sustainability Plan is one way the municipality is supporting the ever-increasing momentum towards a more connected and sustainable future for our community."

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 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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