



## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund commits \$89,237 to Mackenzie County's Community Sustainability Plan**

**July 7, 2010, Mackenzie County, Alta.** – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and Chris Warkentin, Member of Parliament for Peace River, announced today a Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for Mackenzie County. The municipality will use the \$89,237 in funding to undertake a four-step community sustainability plan designed to integrate economic, social, environmental and community wellness components into a strategic roadmap for managing growth.

"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 through the Green Municipal Fund," said Mr. Warkentin. "Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with the FCM — is helping Mackenzie County build a greener future for our citizens."

The plan builds on a successful three-year business plan and has three phases: data assembly and analysis to establish gaps and confirm metrics, community consultation, and the preparation of an action plan that will include key performance indicators. The county, which comprises 12 per cent of Alberta's landmass, is dependent upon primary resource extraction activities, agriculture, forestry and the provision of services.

Mackenzie County's many challenges include the large distances between communities, the massive land base, the remote setting and limited financial and personnel capacity. To address the challenge of including remote communities and the desire to include a youth perspective, the plan calls for youth to be trained to video-interview others about needed recreation, environmental and municipal services.

The plan will focus on transportation, continuous enhancement of energy management in municipal facilities, an examination of the potential for brownfield redevelopment, an examination of domestic and surface water management alternatives, and options for solid and liquid waste management.

"This Municipal Sustainability Plan will provide the County with a roadmap into the future to use our resources to their best abilities," said Reeve Greg Newman.

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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