



NEWS RELEASE

Green Municipal Fund Commits \$260,752 to the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George *First Sustainable Landscapes Field Test for Northern Communities*

November 8, 2007, Prince George, BC – Mayor Sharon Hartwell of the Village of Telkwa, representing the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and Mr. Richard Harris, Member of Parliament for Cariboo–Prince George, today announced a \$260,752 Green Municipal Fund grant to the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). The grant will help UNBC, the City of Prince George, and a coalition of community partners test ecologically sustainable landscape options in the community. Information derived from the research will be used to demonstrate sustainable landscaping practices for northern ecosystems and to quantify the beneficial impacts on water, soil and air quality. Ultimately, the information from the field test will guide the development of the City’s long term master plan for sustainable landscaping.

“FCM’s Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments and their partners,” said Mayor Sharon Hartwell, representing FCM. “The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.”

“This investment in sustainable communities is another example of the Government of Canada’s commitment to deliver real results for all Canadians and help make this country a world-leader on the environment,” said Mr. Harris. “Through the Green Municipal Fund, our government is assisting municipalities across the country and their partners deliver results for a cleaner, healthier environment.”

“Thousands of trees have been cut down in Prince George in response to the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic so this research is timely and needed,” said Dr. Don Cozzetto, President of UNBC. “In our region, a sustainable environment is integral to having sustainable communities and these kinds of research projects support our vision of being Canada’s Green University.”

The final report from the field test will identify specific northern practices that will lead to possible reductions in herbicide, pesticide, fungicide, water use, and air pollution through appropriate landscaping choices for northern climates. It will also include analysis of financial implications while identifying economic development and public health benefits.

“We expect that this study will benefit most Canadian municipalities faced with short growing seasons, limited maintenance resources, road salt deposits, and pressure to eliminate pesticides,” said City of Prince George Mayor, Colin Kinsley. “This is another example of how Prince George is leading the nation, in partnership with our university.”

The Government of Canada has endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with \$550 million to establish and manage 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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For information:

University of Northern British Columbia

Annie Booth, Associate Professor
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way
Prince George, British Columbia
V2N 4Z9
Tel: (250) 960-6649
Cell: (250) 640-8407
Fax: (250) 960-5538
Email: annie@unbc.ca

Green Municipal Fund

Lucille Hodgins
Manager, Community Liaison
Green Municipal Fund
Centre for Sustainable Community Development
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Tel.: 613-907-6299
Cell: 613-447-0051
Fax: 613-244-1515
E-mail: lhodgins@fcm.ca

Natural Resources Canada

Louise Girouard
Director of Communications
Minister's Office
Natural Resources Canada
Tel.: 613-996-2007
Fax: 613-943-0663

For information on the sustainable landscape field test, visit:

<http://web.unbc.ca/sustainablelandscape>

For information on UNBC, visit www.unbc.ca.

For information on the City of Prince George, visit <http://www.city.pg.bc.ca>.

For information on the Green Municipal Fund, including details of other approved projects and studies, visit www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca

For information on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, visit www.fcm.ca

For information on Natural Resources Canada, visit www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

For information on Environment Canada, visit www.ec.gc.ca