



EMERALD HILLS
URBAN VILLAGE

Strathcona
County

Canada

NEWS RELEASE

Strathcona County and Christenson Developments Ltd receive \$839,000 to pilot test the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood (SUN) Process at Emerald Hills Urban Village

August 31, 2007, Sherwood Park, AB – FCM National Board Director Ken Lesniak and Ken Epp, MP (Edmonton–Sherwood Park), representing the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources, announced today grants of \$350,000 from the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) and \$489,000 from Natural Resources Canada to help Strathcona County, in collaboration with Christenson Developments Ltd (CDL), to pilot test the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood (SUN) Process developed by Natural Resources Canada's CANMET Energy Technology Centre.

"Our Government is proud to support municipalities and private sector organizations that are committed to reducing greenhouse gases, improving sustainability and achieving real results for Canadians," said Mr. Epp. "Through projects such as this, we are demonstrating our commitment to the health and environment of Canadians."

"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 FCM representative Ken Lesniak, who serves also as a Strathcona County Councillor and as Chair of the Green Municipal Fund Council. "The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable."

"Strathcona County strongly supports cooperative initiatives and is proud to be working with Christenson Development Ltd. and other partners to advance neighbourhood-scale sustainability," said Strathcona County Mayor Cathy Olesen. "Just as we broke new ground with Strathcona's Centre-in-the-Park sustainable town centre project, Strathcona County is the first in the country to pilot test this innovative new process. We will be measuring carefully its economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits to see how they can help us better achieve our overall sustainability vision."

"We are proud to be partnering with Strathcona County in the Emerald Hills Urban Village planning project," said Greg Christenson, President, Christenson Group of Companies. "The project's goal is to demonstrate that demand-side approaches to municipal services and infrastructure result in smaller scale and lower costs than current development patterns and can foster long-term sustainable lifestyles."

The SUN Process facilitates a clearer understanding of how to incorporate sustainability into the planning, design and implementation of urban developments. Characterized by an expanded set of development parameters, a collaborative engagement process, and a robust suite of decision-support tools, it offers a comprehensive method for generating a design concept and strategic action plan for sustainable neighbourhood development. A CDL-produced toolkit of guiding ideas,

institutional frameworks, engagement processes and practical tools will help lead the way for future developments using the SUN Process in other communities.

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 is dedicated to improving the quality of life in communities by promoting strong, effective and accountable municipal government.

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For information on Christenson Developments Ltd, visit <http://www.cdlhomes.com/>

For information on Strathcona County, AB, visit <http://www.strathcona.ab.ca/Strathcona/default.htm>

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

For information on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, visit <http://www.fcm.ca>

For information on Natural Resources Canada, visit <http://nrcan-rncan.gc.ca>

For information on Environment Canada, visit <http://www.ec.gc.ca>