



## NEWS RELEASE

### THE GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND COMMITS \$90,000 TO THE COLLECTIVITÉS ÉCOLOGIQUES BAS-SAINT-LAURENT (CO-ÉCO) FOR A THREE-STREAM ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION PROGRAM

**December 5, 2006, La Pocatière, QC** – President Bernard Généreux of the Federation of Quebec Municipalities (FQM), representing the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, announced today a \$90,000 Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant to the Collectivités écologiques Bas-Saint-Laurent (Co-éco). The funding will assist Co-éco and its partners examine combining farm composting to municipal and commercial waste streams, as well as the feasibility for full-scale implementation of a three-stream organic waste diversion and recycling program for residential, commercial and agricultural sectors in the municipalities of La Pocatière, Saint-Pascal et Saint-Bruno within the Regional County Municipality (RCM) of Kamouraska.

“The Green Municipal Fund supports projects that maximize environmental, social and economic benefits at the local level,” said FQM President Bernard Généreux, representing FCM. “In this project, Co-éco and its partners will be working towards that goal by determining the waste management approach that will yield the greatest diversion rate and recycling of municipal organic waste within the RCM of Kamouraska.”

“Through the Green Municipal Fund, the new Government of Canada is proud to support the efforts of municipalities across the country to improve air, water and soil quality,” said Minister Lunn. “This innovative Co-éco project will greatly benefit the RCM of Kamouraska and is an example of our commitment to invest taxpayers’ dollars in real projects that achieve real results for a clean environment.”

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.

“A three-stream collection approach will help the RCM achieve the goal set by the *Québec Residual Materials Management Policy 1998-2008*, which aims to divert 60 per cent of organic waste from landfill sites by 2008,” said Cécile Joseph, President of Co-éco. “The results of this study will serve as a guide for municipalities within the RCM of Kamouraska and other similar communities seeking an alternative to landfilling.”

More than 40 percent of the average garbage bag consists of compostable organic material. Burying garbage is a waste of resources; it can cause environmental and health risks, and it has considerable economic costs. Organic waste represents close to one-third of all waste buried at landfill sites, and the cost of operation of these sites is ever increasing, at the expense of municipal taxpayers. Composting organic waste will allow large volumes to be diverted from landfill sites, help reduce operation costs and, when composted and used as fertilizer, tap into a

resource traditionally considered as waste. In addition, using the compost for agricultural fertilizer will help soil aeration and drainage and will reduce the need for chemicals on farmland.

Along with Co-éco, the study will engage La Pocatière, Saint-Pascal, Saint-Bruno and the RCM of Kamouraska. Several other local partners will participate also in the study: three agricultural producers (Ferme-école Lapokita, Ferme Martinoise Inc. and Ferme Lutin), l'Institut de technologie agroalimentaire (ITA – La Pocatière campus), le Groupe conseil agricole de la Côte-du-Sud (GCACS) and Nova Envirocom.

*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 the Collectivités écologiques Bas-Saint-Laurent, visit <http://www.co-eco.org/>

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

For information on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, visit [www.fcm.ca](http://www.fcm.ca)

For information on Natural Resources Canada, visit [www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)

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