



## NEWS RELEASE

### THE GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND ANNOUNCES \$225,000 FOR INNOVATIVE WATERSHED PLANNING AT LAC LA BICHE

**November 17, 2006, Lakeland County, AB** – Strathcona County Councillor Ken Lesniak, representing the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and Brian Jean, MP (Fort McMurray – Athabasca), representing the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, announced today a \$225,000 Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant to help Lakeland County develop an integrated management plan for the entire Lac La Biche watershed. The multi-disciplinary and multi-agency study involves comprehensive mapping of the watershed using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to determine current lake use patterns and water quality and to propose a long-term integrated watershed management plan. Residents and community groups will be consulted.

“Lakeland County and the Town of Lac La Biche are facing immense pressures from both proposed development in the Town and from cottage developments around the lake,” said Councillor Ken Lesniak. “By using natural rather than political boundaries to define a watershed, Lakeland County will set a new standard in watershed planning, making it possible to apply a fully integrated approach to natural resource management.”

“Through the Green Municipal Fund, the Government of Canada is proud to support the efforts of municipalities across the country to improve air, water and soil quality,” said MP Brian Jean, on behalf of Minister Lunn. “The Lac La Biche watershed plan will greatly benefit Lakeland County development 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.

“This study will provide the data needed to update our Land Use Development Plan, Area Structure Plan and Municipal Development Plan,” said Reeve Peter Kirylochuk of Lakeland County. “By creating a baseline of watershed health indicators, it will identify areas of concern, and suggest the management tools to address them. There will also be significant environmental benefit from developing a “living” watershed management plan that integrates the whole watershed and considers the impact of all users, both present and future.”

*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 Lakeland County, visit <http://www.lakelandcounty.com>

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)

For information on Environment Canada, visit [www.ec.gc.ca/](http://www.ec.gc.ca/)