



## NEWS RELEASE

### THE GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND COMMITS \$350,000 TO GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION IN NOVA SCOTIA'S STRAIT-HIGHLANDS REGION

**November 15, 2006, Whycocomagh, NS** – Mayor Ann MacLean of the Town of New Glasgow, Past President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources, announced today a \$350,000 grant from the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) to the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency (S-HRDA) for the completion of the first three milestones of the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program. The initiative will help the Cape Breton Island Counties of Inverness and Richmond and the Town of Port Hawkesbury reduce significantly their corporate and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

“The action plan is the first step to helping these communities make responsible choices about their energy resources,” said Minister Lunn. “Through the Green Municipal Fund, Canada’s new Government is supporting efforts of municipalities across the country to improve air quality and work towards clean energy solutions.”

“We look forward to municipalities playing an important role in Canada’s Clean Air Agenda,” said the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Environment. “As we move ahead with our ambitious agenda to clean up the air that Canadians breathe and reduce greenhouse gases, the efforts of municipalities will be recognized and encouraged. I am pleased to see the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency taking early action that will benefit all Canadians.”

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.

“The Green Municipal Fund supports projects that maximize environmental, social and economic benefits at the local level,” said Mayor Ann MacLean. “In this project, each community will be working towards that goal by creating a GHG emissions inventory and forecast, setting emissions reduction targets and establishing a local action plan – the first three milestones of the PCP program.”

“The Strait-Highlands Region is committed to sustainable community development,” said Blaine Gillis, S-HRDA Chief Executive Officer. “With the help of the Green Municipal Fund, we expect to identify over 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) that can be reduced through the implementation of our PCP local action plan. Additional benefits are likely to include a decrease in water consumption and a reduction in various chemicals now entering our communities.”

The S-HRDA has been a member of PCP since 2004. PCP is an FCM program that provides services and tools to municipal governments to deal with the challenges of climate change. By joining PCP, 137 Canadian municipal governments, representing 70 percent of the population, have committed to reduce greenhouse gases and act on climate change. FCM receives technical support for PCP from ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the coordinator of a 600-member worldwide network of communities addressing climate change.

*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 Strait-Highland Regional Development Agency (S-HRDA), visit [http://i-port.ca/SHRDA/shrda\\_main.nsf](http://i-port.ca/SHRDA/shrda_main.nsf)

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 Partners for Climate Protection (PCP), visit [http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/Capacity\\_Building/Energy/PCP/default.asp](http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/Capacity_Building/Energy/PCP/default.asp)

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/)