

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund commits \$70,000 to the development of a sustainability plan for three North Durham townships

October 15, 2010, Uxbridge, Ont. – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and the Honourable Bev Oda, Minister of International Cooperation and Member of Parliament for Durham, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant of \$70,000 for the Durham Region Townships of Uxbridge, Brock, and Scugog. The townships have invested this funding in the development of an integrated community sustainability plan (ICSP) that includes individual plans for each municipality as well as an overall strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments," said Mr. Cunningham. "The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable."

"This project demonstrates that by working in partnership with our municipalities, we can maintain the cleaner and healthy environment we all enjoy in north Durham," said Minister Oda. "The Green Municipal Fund is another example of how the Government of Canada, in partnership with FCM, is helping the townships of Uxbridge, Brock, and Scugog build a greener and stronger future for our citizens."

The development of the joint ICSP has been coordinated by the township of Uxbridge, with the townships of Brock and Scugog as well as Durham Region contributing as partners. The three townships have common features, including a rural setting with small populations relative to the size of the area, and face similar economic, environmental, social, and cultural challenges. Their unique collaboration not only increases their own capacity, but also creates a model for other small, rural municipalities facing similar challenges.

To develop the ICSP, the townships have adopted elements of the five-milestone planning framework supported by the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program (a partnership between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability), as well as an incremental project-based program.

Key community leaders and program partners have contributed to a visioning process, and teams have identified and prioritized relevant issues and opportunities within their specific areas of focus. An implementation plan that identifies new funding opportunities under various programs and a process for evaluating the success of each project has been developed for the most promising initiatives.

Local action plans (Milestone 3 of the PCP program) have been developed for each township and have been incorporated into the joint ICSP. The joint plan also includes consolidated sustainability targets, indicators and actions.

“We appreciate the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our sustainable community initiative,” said Mayor Bob Shepherd of Uxbridge Township. “The plan has given the three townships the opportunity to work together in a common cause because we face similar challenges.”

“GMF funding for our integrated community sustainability plan will help us be more efficient and successful in reaching our environmental, social as well as economic goals”, said Mayor Marilyn Pearce of Scugog Township. “This will benefit the citizens of our three townships.”

“Support from the GMF has given our three townships the capacity to continue building our plan and engaging citizens, helping us to become leaders in sustainability,” said Mayor Larry O’Connor of Brock Township. “Our common plan will produce sustainability benefits for the region and will generate knowledge that can be used in other small, rural communities.”

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with \$550 million to establish 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 the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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