

NEWS RELEASE

FCM celebrates Earth Day by highlighting the achievements of the Green Municipal Fund

OTTAWA, April 22, 2009 – The President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Mayor Jean Perrault of Sherbrooke, Que., underscored the organization's commitment to the environment on Earth Day by celebrating the achievements of FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF).

"GMF is an excellent way for all municipalities to access low-interest loans and grants that will help them invest in their local sustainable infrastructure projects," said Perrault. "Over the last nine years, the financing and knowledge provided by the Fund has supported the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable."

To date, GMF has committed more than \$375 million to support nearly 700 sustainable community plans, feasibility studies, field tests and capital projects. GMF-funded initiatives are estimated to have reduced greenhouse gas emissions in Canada by over 1.4 million tonnes.

These initiatives also have the potential to leverage almost \$2.2 billion of economic activity in nearly 350 communities across Canada.

GMF grants are available for sustainable community plans, feasibility studies and field tests, while a combination of grants and loans are available for capital projects. For municipal governments, GMF offers loan interest rates 1.5 per cent lower than the Government of Canada bond rate for the equivalent term. Funding is allocated in five sectors of municipal activity: brownfields, energy, transportation, waste and water. More information on the types of initiatives funded by GMF is available at <www.fcm.ca/gmf>.

"On behalf of FCM, I would like to congratulate all of the municipalities and all of their community partners involved in these important initiatives for their foresight and dedication to sustainable development," said Perrault.

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish the Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF). The Fund provides below-market loans and grants, as well as education and training services to support municipal initiatives that improve air, water and soil quality, and protect the climate.

FCM has been the national voice of municipal governments since 1901. It fosters sustainable communities enjoying a high quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

– 30 –

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