



## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund Commits \$60,000 to the City of Rossland, B.C. to develop a Strategic Sustainability Plan**

**May 29th, 2009, Rossland, B.C.** – Jean Perrault, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Mayor of Sherbrooke, Que. and the Honourable Stockwell Day, MP for Okanagan–Coquihalla and Minister of International Trade and for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, on behalf of the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announced today a \$60,000 Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for the City of Rossland, British Columbia. The City has used this funding to develop a Strategic Sustainability Plan entitled *Visions to Action*.

"FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments," said Jean Perrault, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Mayor of Sherbrooke, Que. "The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable."

"Our government is assisting municipalities across the country in achieving their goal of a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians through the Green Municipal Fund," said Minister Day. "Today's announcement is another example of how the Government of Canada – in partnership with the FCM – is helping Rossland build a greener future for our citizens."

The City of Rossland's *Visions to Action* Strategic Sustainability Plan outlines strategies and a creative planning process to address the environmental, economic, and social impacts of significant land development pressure and community growth. The final plan was made public in January 2008. The Rossland sustainability plan identifies eleven areas of focus. Within each focus area, it describes goals and specific community actions. In total, one-hundred and forty-seven (147) actions have been identified to help Rossland achieve its vision of the community in the year 2030. Also included in the plan are project implementation strategies, and methodologies for monitoring and evaluation.

In October 2008, Rossland's City council passed the Sustainability Commission Bylaw. Within this newly-created governance structure, Rossland is focusing on the first stages of implementation in areas of: water stewardship, housing and affordability, and community economic development.

"The Green Municipal Fund has played a large role in enabling the City of Rossland to collectively envision our future and develop a blueprint to build a sustainable community," said City of Rossland Mayor, Greg Granstrom. "The Strategic Sustainability Plan and the Sustainability Commission Bylaw provide a governance framework for City council to make consistent and reliable value-based decisions required to successfully navigate a rapidly changing 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.

*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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