

News Release

FCM's Green Municipal Fund Supports Decontamination of IPC Site in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

January 14th, 2009, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC – Jean Perrault, Mayor of Sherbrooke, Quebec and President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Public Works and Government Services today announced that FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) will grant a loan of \$342,431 to Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. Funding will go to support the IPC site decontamination project.

"FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a full range of resources and services tailored to meet the specific needs of municipal administrations in sustainable development," explained Mayor Jean Perrault acting for FCM. "The financing and expertise supplied by the GMF supports the development of more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable communities."

"Our government is committed to working with municipalities to clean up the environment for all Canadians," said Minister Paradis. "I am very proud that the subsidy granted in partnership with FCM will ensure a greener future for Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu."

This former industrial site located west of Old Saint-Jean is bordered to the north and south by Canadian Pacific and Canadian National rail lines. The soil and underground water contamination is due to the on-site storage of paint pigments in barrels and other containers. A partial audit of work before demolition in 1998 showed the site also contained asbestos, hazardous wastes stored in barrels as well as underground and aboveground hydrocarbon tanks.

Because of the presence of these products, it will be necessary to use "Level C" equipment to decontaminate the buildings in question. Site restoration would be carried out in four stages: 1) an analysis of impacts and toxicological risks on underground water; 2) the elimination of residual materials and the restoration of buildings; 3) demolition of buildings and 4) redevelopment of the site.

Once the bioremediation is completed, the City plans on putting up buildings on the site and using the remaining vacant lots to centralize operations of its Public Works Department.

"We are pleased to benefit from the support of the Green Municipal Fund in the rehabilitation of the former IPC site. The project will allow us to revitalize the sector and create a safer environment for our residents while stimulating the city's economic activity," explained the mayor of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Gilles Dolbec.

The Government of Canada has endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 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.

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