



NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Township of Alfred and Plantagenet's upgrade of the Wendover water distribution system

January 18, 2010, Plantagenet, Ont. – Basil Stewart, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I., and Pierre Lemieux, member of Parliament for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt, today announced Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) loan and grant contributions for the Township of Alfred and Plantagenet. The township put the \$446,043 in funding toward upgrading six kilometres of water main, and installing fire hydrants, water meters and related equipment in the community of Wendover.

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

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

Wendover's water distribution system consisted of approximately six kilometres of undersized water mains made up of low-pressure polyethylene pipe, asbestos concrete and PVC, the oldest of which was installed more than 45 years ago. The new, all-PVC distribution system, complete with larger pipes, will allow the community to grow without further increases in pipe size.

The township aims to reduce Wendover's current water consumption of 350 cubic metres per day by 20 per cent. It estimates that the installation of water meters will alter consumer behaviour enough to reduce consumption by 10 per cent; the remaining 10 per cent reduction is expected to come from replacing the pipes to reduce leaks, particularly at the lateral connections to each house.

The larger pipe size also improves the fire protection available to the citizens of Wendover. Previously, only hydrants on one of the community's streets could be used for firefighting purposes. On the others, the water pressure dropped to near zero when pumper trucks connected to hydrants, creating a threat of groundwater contamination to the system.

The engineers' formal evaluation of the new system is not complete, but the township expects to see the desired water savings as the old pipes are replaced. A further test will come in July 2010, when the water meters are connected.

"Our township appreciates this financial support from FCM," said Mayor Jean-Yves Lalonde. "Without it we would not have been able to afford to upgrade our water distribution system."

This project is an exciting example of how funding from GMF can be stacked against funding from other programs — in this case, Ontario's *Rural Infrastructure* initiative — to improve municipal infrastructure.

The Green Municipal Fund is an endowment financed by the Government of Canada and managed by FCM. 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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