



NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Town of Banff's solid waste and hybrid public transit initiatives

May 7, 2010, Banff, Alta. – Darren Aldous, member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) National Board of Directors, mayor of the Village of Breton, Alta., and president of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, and Blake Richards, member of Parliament for Wild Rose, today announced Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) loan and grant contributions for the Town of Banff. The town put the \$1.1 million in funding toward an initiative it described as “a radical rethink of recycling,” and the replacement of four aging, environmentally unfriendly buses.

“FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments,” said Aldous. “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 Mr. Richards. “Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — is helping Banff build a greener future for our citizens.”

The \$1.1 million supported two projects:

Radical rethink of recycling

Banff's location within a world-famous national park attracts thousands of visitors each day. These visitors, and the tourist industry they support, make the town a heavy producer — in per capita terms — of municipal solid waste (MSW).

Due to the waste management challenges posed by wildlife, Banff required a unique system in order to improve recycling convenience in the national park town. Through significant changes to collection and recovery procedures — including the development of large, communal bear-proof recycling bins, an upgraded materials-handling system, and a major awareness campaign — Banff achieved a 51 per cent MSW diversion rate in 2009. This increase in waste diversion further benefits the town with fewer trips to the Calgary landfill each year, and reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Hybridizing public transit

As a tourist town, transportation in Banff generates high levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs). To help reduce emissions, Banff became the first municipality in Canada to introduce an all-hybrid transit fleet. By purchasing four new NOVA 40-foot diesel-electric buses to replace a fleet of 1985 diesel buses, the town has achieved a 28 per cent reduction in GHG emissions and savings in monthly fuel costs. The new fleet has also **doubled ridership** and generated offsets equivalent to 68 tonnes of CO₂.

The hybrid technology that made this possible, and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified storage and maintenance facility that houses it, are now on display for other vehicle fleets. The new facility will use 30 per cent less energy than a traditional building of the same size, and much of the water used to wash the buses will be captured rainwater and snowmelt from the roof.

By providing a reliable, comfortable and appealing service, the new fleet has placed Banff in a strong position to promote public transit as a mode of choice with both residents and visitors, who might otherwise rent a vehicle or travel by taxi. A reduction in automobile dependency will help the town achieve associated health and quality of life benefits. This project earned Banff FCM's 2009 Sustainable Communities Award in the transportation category.

"We are very proud to be a recipient of FCM's Green Municipal Fund," said Banff's Deputy Mayor John Gibson. "Both of these projects align with our belief that as a town within a National Park, we have an obligation to be a model environmental community. We are particularly thankful to FCM and the Federal Government for recognizing and supporting the efforts of achieving these ambitious environmental goals."

The Government of Canada has endowed \$550 million to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to establish and manage the GMF. 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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