

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Municipality of Chatham-Kent's Ridgetown Wastewater Treatment Plant Project**

**May 14, 2010, Chatham-Kent, Ont.** – Percy Hatfield, member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) National Board of Directors and councillor, City of Windsor, Ont., and Dave Van Kesteren, member of Parliament for Chatham-Kent–Essex, today announced Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) loan and grant contributions for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The municipality put the \$2.4 million in funding toward the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant at the site of Ridgetown's current wastewater lagoon facility in order to improve treatment capacity and discharge quality.

"FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments," said Hatfield. "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. Van Kesteren. "Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM, and all orders of government — is helping the Municipality of Chatham-Kent build a greener future for our citizens."

The new treatment plant has a new raw sewage pump station, has adapted two of the existing lagoon cells to store biosolids and handle excess water, and has shut down the lagoon cells that are no longer needed. The new facility also provides a third level of water treatment using sand filters and UV disinfection. These upgrades will reduce E. coli concentrations in the water discharged into the environment by 35 per cent, reduce phosphorus by 33 per cent, and reduce nitrogen, fine suspended particles and microbes, as well as disease-causing organisms and viruses. UV disinfection replaces the use of chemicals and eliminates chlorine released into the environment. Use of the two lagoon cells to store excess water reduces the amount of water that bypasses the plant during wet weather. The new plant provides an immediate increase in treatment capacity of 50 per cent, allows for further expansion in the future, and will support population and economic growth in the community of Ridgetown.

"Our aim is to be the fastest growing sustainable community in southwestern Ontario", said Chatham-Kent Mayor Randy Hope, "and the development and application of leading-edge environmental technology is an essential part of our strategy."

This project is an exciting example of how funding from GMF can be stacked against funding from other programs — in this case, \$2.6 million in funding under the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) — to improve municipal infrastructure.

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish 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 the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.*

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