



## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports City of Markham's Community Sustainability Plan**

**July 7, 2010, Markham, Ont.** – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., Frank Scarpitti, mayor of the City of Markham, Ont., and Paul Calandra, Member of Parliament for Oak Ridges – Markham announced today a Green Municipal Fund grant for Markham. The city will use the \$158,250 in funding to develop The Green Print: A Community Sustainability Plan to ensure it continues to be a vibrant, successful, and sustainable community, well into the future. The plan will be Markham's long-term road map to environmental, economic and social wellbeing, including a climate change action plan.

"FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments," said Cunningham. "The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially, culturally 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. Calandra. "Today's announcement is another example of how our government– in partnership with the FCM – is helping Markham build a greener future our citizens."

A municipality of over 300,000 residents centrally located in the greater Toronto area, Markham is Canada's most diverse community and home to many of Canada's leading life science and technology businesses. It is renowned for a rich heritage, vibrant neighbourhoods, and leadership on the environment and urban design.

The Green Print will include a vision, goals and principles; action, implementation and monitoring plans; and a framework including performance criteria and indicators to measure progress. It will incorporate actions and policies related to natural heritage, climate change, buildings, brownfields, transportation, water and waste management and energy. The plan will be championed by Markham's Sustainability Office, but developed with input from residents, community groups, businesses, other levels of government and municipal staff.

Community engagement activities will include public forums, focus groups, and online engagement for key stakeholders, including youth. A social marketing campaign will also be designed to raise awareness and secure buy-in from the municipality's employees, community partners and the public.

"Markham's Green Print will be a community-driven, long-term sustainability plan that will help prepare us for future challenges, both locally and globally," said Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti. "With support from the Green Municipal Fund, we can ensure Markham retains its environmental, economic, social and cultural vitality for generations to come."

“Markham is well known for its environmental leadership and we are now focused on becoming a more sustainable community in every way,” said Ward 2 Councillor Erin Shapero. “This funding will help us develop a plan that builds on the many successes we have already had, and results in an equitable, accessible, caring, safe and inclusive community for all.”

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 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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