

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Resort Municipality of Whistler's Public Library

May 18, 2010, Whistler, B.C. – Marvin Hunt, member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) National Board of Directors and councillor for the City of Surrey, B.C., and John Weston, Member of Parliament for West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country, today announced Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) loan and grant contributions for the Resort Municipality of Whistler. The municipality put the \$4,039,000 in funding toward the construction of a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Gold public library.

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

The new Whistler Public Library, which opened in 2008, is a 12,000-square-foot facility that incorporates a number of sustainability features and includes a children's area, a fireside lounge, a community meeting room, quiet study areas and a digital learning centre.

The Whistler Library is the first municipal facility in Whistler to apply for LEED Gold certification.

The building — which uses low-emitting and local materials, optimizes energy performance, maximizes the use of natural light and air, and reduces water use — is projected to use 45 to 50 per cent less energy than a comparable facility with no environmental measures.

The library project was profiled in the July/August 2008 edition of *Innovation*, the Journal of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia, an association with a professional membership of almost 25,000. The building recently received a Community Recognition Award from the Canadian Wood Council, and a 2008 Wood Design Award for use of red cedar. Since opening, visitation has increased by 185 per cent. The library is an important gathering place and will be a lasting legacy for the community.

"On behalf of the Resort Municipality of Whistler, I would like to thank FCM and the Government of Canada for their contribution to the Whistler Public Library through the Green Municipal Fund," said Whistler Mayor Ken Melamed. "This facility is an incredible legacy for our community and is aligned with our commitment to develop more sustainable practices."

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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