



Green Municipal Fund  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Regional District of Comox Valley's sustainable development plan for the Comox Valley**

**February 18, 2011, Courtenay, B.C.** – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Indian Affairs and Member of Parliament for Vancouver Island North, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant contribution for the Comox Valley Regional District. The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) put the \$180,000 in funding toward the production of the Comox Valley sustainability strategy.

“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 and economically sustainable.”

“Our Government is assisting municipalities across the country in achieving their goal of a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians through the Green Municipal Fund,” said Minister Duncan. “Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — is helping Comox Valley build a greener future for our citizens.”

The Comox Valley is experiencing significant growth and has recognized that future developments need to be designed and located with community sustainability in mind. The impact of such development demands an understanding of the long term sustainability of infrastructure in both urban and rural communities.

The completion of the Comox Valley sustainability strategy will benefit the environment by providing policies to coordinate approaches to waste treatment and disposal, water supplies, transportation networks and modes, energy supplies, identification of shared natural environmental assets, development standards, greenhouse gas reduction, and economic development. The comprehensive sustainability strategy will be used to manage growth and prioritize capital infrastructure projects for the Comox Valley based upon sustainability principles.

The process of creating a sustainability strategy for the Comox Valley focused on addressing critical trends and developing a set of policy goals to position the region to prosper in the face of these trends. This involved staff from the participating local government in drafting a strategic vision and goals statement as well as specific actions designed to lead the community on a path towards long term sustainability.

The work program also included extensive research into local sustainability issues, and practices and experiences elsewhere. Public consultations and a core of dedicated local volunteers who came together into eight working groups led to the development of a strategy that is now being implemented. Local government staff are using the strategic policies and recommended actions to guide their work, including the development of a detailed five year implementation plan with resource allocations, a sustainability checklist, and a monitoring and reporting program.

By developing a sustainability strategy that considers the whole area, local governments will be better able to manage cross-border developments. The results of the process will drive Council and Board-approved processes such as the regional water supply strategy, the solid waste management plan and the sewer master plan.

“The Comox Valley Regional District appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our sustainable initiative,” said CVRD board chair Edwin Grieve. “The sustainability strategy is an example of successful collaboration among the local governments here. It is a regional plan that creates new knowledge and leading approaches to sustainability for communities in the Comox Valley.”

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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