

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the City of Guelph's Creation of a secondary plan for the Guelph Innovation District**

**June 23, 2011, Guelph, Ont.** – Berry Vrbanovic, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and councillor for the City of Kitchener, Ont., and the Honourable Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ grant of \$142,252 to the City of Guelph. The grant will help fund the development of a secondary plan to guide the creation of the 453-hectare Guelph Innovation District.

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

The Guelph Innovation District secondary plan is an effort to be carbon-neutral by connecting an employment cluster focussed on green economy and innovation sector jobs with an urban village. The plan will be a prototype for new standards and protocols that will enable the City to meet its sustainability goals and objectives.

“This funding will help us create a plan for the Guelph Innovation District that will place us at the forefront of the green economy and offer a complete community with places to live, work, and play,” said Guelph's Mayor, Karen Farbridge. “This is about a new way of approaching development – a way that is integrated, innovative, and sustainable.”

The secondary plan will address environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability issues including the protection of natural and cultural heritage resources; the creation of affordable and sustainable live-work opportunities; the use of low-impact development and infrastructure design; the implementation of energy planning strategies, and the application of pedestrian and transit-oriented transportation approaches.

Drawing on a number of strategic documents, land use concept reports, background studies, best practices analyses and public consultations, the plan will propose a vision statement, goals, objectives, low-impact design guidelines, and a development concept for the Guelph Innovation District lands. The secondary plan will also implement sustainability targets identified in existing strategic documents, including the provincial growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and will apply higher standards, where appropriate. It will be integrated with the City's Official Plan and linked to a number of existing strategic municipal documents including the Community Energy Initiative, Prosperity 2020 and the City of Guelph Growth management strategy.

The Government of Canada endowed the 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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