



NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Town of Ladysmith's study of waterfront brownfield

March 10, 2010, Ladysmith, B.C. – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and Natural Resources Minister Christian Paradis, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant for the Town of Ladysmith. The town put the \$86,686 in funding toward the study of 92 acres of potentially contaminated waterfront lands.

"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."

"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. Paradis. "Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — is helping Ladysmith build a greener future for our citizens."

Working closely with the B.C. Ministry of Natural Resource Operations and the Stz'uminus First Nation, the town will conduct a detailed site investigation and overview level geotechnical assessment of the 24 acres of town-owned land (the "Uplands") and 68 acres of provincial Crown land that make up the Ladysmith waterfront.

An earlier investigation found coal-related wastes and other contaminants which can be a source of soil, sediment and groundwater pollution, and pose a barrier to site re-use. The immediate goal of the study is to identify and fill in data gaps with respect to soil, water, and sediment quality. This will help to understand options to redevelop the site as a mixed-use village with natural, recreational, marine, traditional industrial, and waterfront service areas.

Using a variety of sampling techniques, the town will project the costs of addressing contamination at the former industrial sites and will detail various options for moving forward. This study will make it easier to attract private-sector investment to develop the stunning coastal landscape, which is close to major urban centres and transportation networks.

Understanding the environmental issues is critical to the success of Ladysmith's long-term plan.

"Ladysmith's waterfront is very special to our community, and our citizens have told us they want to see it developed in a way that makes it more accessible for all to enjoy," said Ladysmith mayor Rob Hutchins. "The Green Municipal funds will go a long way to helping us plan how to achieve that while also helping to improve water quality in the Harbour."

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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For information:

Town of Ladysmith

Rob Hutchins
Mayor
Town of Ladysmith
Tel.: 250.245.6403
E-mail: rhutchins@ladysmith.ca
www.ladysmith.ca

Ruth Malli
City Manager
Town of Ladysmith
250.245.6401
rmalli@ladysmith.ca

FCM's Green Municipal Fund

Maurice Gingues
Media Relations Officer
Green Municipal Fund
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Tel.: 613-907-6399
Fax: 613-244-1515
E-mail: mgingues@fcm.ca
www.fcm.ca/gmf

Natural Resources Canada

Richard Walker
Director of Communications
Office of the Minister
Natural Resources Canada
Tel.: 613-996-2007

Media Relations
Natural Resources Canada
Tel.: 613-992-4447