



NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and York Region action plan for the Lake Wilcox community

March 21, 2011, Toronto, ON – 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 Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and The Regional Municipality of York. The TRCA and York Region will put the \$100,000 in grant funding toward the creation of a sustainable neighbourhood retrofit action plan (SNAP) for the Lake Wilcox community in the Town of Richmond Hill.

“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 Minister Paradis. “Today’s announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — is helping York Region build a greener future for our citizens.”

With questions being raised about the speed and effectiveness of environmental improvements in established urban communities, TRCA will pilot the creation of a sustainable neighbourhood retrofit action plan (SNAP) for the Lake Wilcox community as part of a series of three pilots in Brampton, Richmond Hill and Toronto.

This collaborative project to increase community sustainability and contribute to climate change mitigation will bring together York Region, TRCA, and the Town of Richmond Hill with assistance from community groups, residents, and businesses.

The team members are already integrating sustainability principles into their policies, plans, and programs. The SNAP process will look at more integrated options for urban neighbourhood change. The Lake Wilcox community contains approximately 3,800 households, making the scale of SNAP intimate and able to align with ongoing municipal initiatives that will span public and private lands. SNAP will describe the baseline community characteristics, present a sustainability framework and develop a science-based action plan for improving local water quality and controlling stormwater runoff.

The Lake Wilcox SNAP is already attracting international interest as a unique planning process for conducting comprehensive neighbourhood retrofits. Experience with the Lake Wilcox SNAP will be shared at national conferences, in publications and through research partnerships.

“The Regional Municipality of York incorporates sustainability into all of our initiatives,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “It is an honour to have our work recognised by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities through support from the Green Municipal Fund. We look forward to working with the TRCA and Richmond Hill to conduct the Lake Wilcox SNAP.”

“Toronto and Region Conservation Authority appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan for the Lake Wilcox community in Richmond Hill,” said Brian Denney, CAO, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. “We hope that through the SNAP program and the support from our partners, we can continue to help residents get more interested and involved in making their neighbourhood become more environmentally sustainable.”

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 leverages 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.

– 30 –

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