

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Village of Telkwa's Sustainable Community Plan

March 18, 2011, Telkwa, 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 Christian Paradis, Minister of Natural Resources, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant to the Village of Telkwa. The village put the \$66,725 in funding toward an ambitious sustainability planning project.

“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 Telkwa build a greener future for our citizens.”

Telkwa is taking the unusual step of simultaneously developing an integrated community sustainability plan (ICSP), an official community plan (OCP), a zoning bylaw, and an affordable housing needs assessment and action plan. The village will apply triple-bottom-line and cradle-to-cradle sustainability methodologies, and incorporate a review of development charges and pertinent administrative bylaws.

Like other small northern B.C. communities whose economies are based in forestry, agriculture and tourism, the village of Telkwa has limited staff resources and no municipal planner. The alternative to a more formal process is an intimate and varied grassroots consultation process that will result in a “made in Telkwa” solution. To achieve this, Telkwa is developing an OCP that incorporates an ICSP. The ICSP will respect public opinion; identify the nature and scale of change occurring in the village; and describe initiatives to meet economic, environmental, social, and cultural sustainability goals. The process will define a public accountability framework with measurable indicators of success.

With this simultaneous review of all major planning documents, Telkwa is making a commitment to change the structure of municipal decision-making. The village will document and share the tools it develops and the lessons it learns with other rural communities, both online and at conferences.

“The Village of Telkwa appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our sustainable initiative,” said Mayor Carman Graf. “This financial assistance helps us to achieve our goal of developing a long term community sustainable plan that identifies and addresses issues and trends facing the village over the next 25 years or longer. It is rare that all three policy documents (ICSP, OCP and Zoning Bylaw) in any municipality are amended simultaneously. By doing this we are enabling the plans to be easily implemented. This integrated approach is part of the unique, forward thinking approach to sustainability that both Council and staff of Telkwa have committed to.

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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