

## NEWS RELEASE

### FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Town of High Level's Integrated Sustainability Plan

**August 3, 2010, High Level, Alta.** – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and Chris Warkentin, member of Parliament for Peace River, today announced a Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for the Town of High Level. The town will use the \$155,650 in funding to develop an Integrated Sustainability Plan, drawing on established sustainable planning frameworks from the Natural Step, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, and EarthCAT.

“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. Warkentin. “Today's announcement is another example of how our government– in partnership with the FCM – is helping High Level build a greener future for our citizens.”

The plan involves all municipal departments and five dimensions of sustainability: cultural, economic, environmental, governance and social. The town intends that this project will build capacity for sustainability planning within the municipality and instil a sense of community in High Level, which has traditionally seen a considerable amount of transitory migration. With these two considerations in mind, the community consultation process is a foundational component of the plan.

The town has established a community advisory group to lead the project, representing a diverse range of interests and experience within the community and including two elected representatives and two municipal staff members. The planning exercise began with a community visioning process to ensure commitment to sustainability principles, and strategic planning for priority areas through an assessment of High Level's baseline situation and developing statements of success, goals and targets.

“The Town of High Level appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our sustainable initiative,” said Mayor Peter Ernst. “This funding has proven to be very useful in the creation of criteria to guide future development planning and we are confident that it will help us be more efficient and successful in reaching our environmental, social as well as economic goals. We're one step closer to building a greener future for High Level citizens.”

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 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 sustainable communities enjoying a high quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.*

– 30 –

For information:

**Town of High Level, Alta.**

Dean Krause  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of High Level  
Tel.: 780-821-4001  
E-mail: [dkrause@highlevel.ca](mailto:dkrause@highlevel.ca)  
[www.highlevel.ca](http://www.highlevel.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](mailto:mgingues@fcm.ca)  
[www.fcm.ca/gmf](http://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