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FCM welcomes expanded role for Canadian municipalities (02/03/2016)

Ottawa, ON - The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) welcomes the announcement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to expand the role of FCM in supporting municipalities to reach low-carbon and resilience objectives.

"Today's announcement speaks to the federal government's commitment to addressing climate change and FCM is extremely pleased to be called upon to deliver positive solutions in communities from coast to coast to coast," stated FCM President Raymond Louie.

Local governments have direct or indirect influence over close to 50 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Canada. Through a combination of climate change mitigation and adaptation programming, this new investment will help build cities and communities that lower GHG emissions and are more resilient.

"The way Canada's cities and communities are built, renewed and managed over the coming decades will be critical to enabling a new green economy built on climate change mitigation and community resilience. The announcement today is another example of how a partnership between different orders of government can deliver meaningful change for Canadians," said Mr. Louie.

The \$75 million investment will be dedicated to new programming that will provide a suite of grants to support studies, plans and pilot projects to enable better planning, analysis and decision-making related to municipal capital investments. These financial supports will be complemented by capacity-building initiatives such as peer learning groups, case studies, workshops, conferences and webinars.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has been a credible and trustworthy partner of the Government of Canada in delivering programming in the areas of sustainability and protection against climate change. FCM supports initiatives that demonstrate innovative solutions or approaches to municipal environmental issues, with the goal to generate new lessons and models for municipalities of all sizes and their partners. The end result is a transformation of practices once considered innovative into the new business as usual.

FCM is looking ahead to the federal budget announcement for further commitment and details on transit, social and green infrastructure investments.

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