

FCM Sustainable Communities Mission

British Columbia, 2008

General Information

What: Leading examples of sustainable community development
Where: British Columbia
When: August 17 to August 22, 2008
Who: Elected officials and senior staff

The 2008 Sustainable Communities Mission will visit the Province of British Columbia from Sunday, August 17 to Friday August 22. Municipal governments and their partners in B.C. will host study tours of some of the world's best examples of sustainable community development

For more than twelve years, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has organized missions to progressive European countries that have incorporated sustainability into their economic and community development strategies and into their national energy supply and demand management policies. These countries have included Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, and England. But FCM no longer needs to go overseas to see the world's best: we can now learn from leading examples that have achieved success within a Canadian context. Last year the mission visited Alberta; this year it will visit British Columbia.

The objective of the mission is to learn from officials in the public and private sectors of the host communities how policies, programs and technologies have been used to make their communities more sustainable. The mission provides delegates with a valuable learning experience that demonstrates first-hand how sustainable community development generates economic and environmental benefits locally and nationally. The ability to learn from peers in comparable regulatory and fiscal environments is invaluable.

Site visits and presentations emphasize energy and environmental policies and strategies; site planning, building design and energy efficiency; sustainable transportation; brownfield remediation; land use and sustainable urban planning practices; infrastructure design and efficiency; renewable energy supply; district energy systems; and, sustainable water and waste management practices.

Each mission's delegation consists primarily of elected officials and senior staff from municipalities across the country. During the last 6 years almost 200 municipal delegates, representing almost 150 large, small, urban and rural municipalities from across Canada have participated in the missions.

Funding for past missions came from delegate fees, public and private sector sponsors, including FCM's Green Municipal Fund, the host country or province, individual municipalities and provincial municipal associations.



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