

**Declaration of support for efforts to reconstruct Haitian cities
presented by the Big City Mayors' Caucus**

Whereas the violent earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, caused terrible damage and resulted in a great number of deaths;

Whereas the people of Haiti, the City of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas are caught in an extremely precarious situation;

Whereas the country has been plagued with economic difficulties and various hardships over the past few years;

Whereas Canadians have strongly expressed their solidarity with the Haitian people, especially the City of Montreal's Haitian community, one of the largest groups of the Haitian diaspora in the world;

Whereas much work has been done over the years in Haiti by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations of Canadian cities;

Whereas Haiti is recognized by Canada as a priority cooperation zone;

Whereas both Canada and Haiti are members of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and the Organization of American States (OAS);

Whereas interest has been expressed by various international municipal networks to cooperate with Canadian cities for the reconstruction of Haiti;

Whereas Canadian municipalities have adopted various resolutions expressing solidarity with Haitian communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), in conjunction with the City of Montreal and other Canadian cities, together with the provincial-municipal associations, play a leadership role in coordinating particularly the assistance of big Canadian cities to Haiti;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canada's big cities be invited to contribute expertise and create a bank of experts in various fields, and that any municipal financial assistance received be dedicated to an FCM-managed fund to support the rebuilding of Haiti in cooperation with the federal government.

BE IT RESOLVED that FCM, in conjunction with interested Canadian cities and municipal provincial-territorial associations, coordinate the management of this fund as well as the bank of experts, while complying with any bilateral agreements between Canadian and Haitian cities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the mayor of Montreal inform the ministers of Foreign Affairs at an upcoming international meeting in Montreal of the intent expressed by Canadian cities to contribute to the reconstruction of Haitian cities; and

BE IT RESOLVED that FCM transmit this message to the Government of Canada.