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Town of Gibsons' CAO Invited to Present at South African Climate Change Conference

February 24, 2020 – Emanuel Machado, the Town of Gibsons' Chief Administrative Officer, has been invited by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to share his knowledge of natural asset management and the costs of climate change at an upcoming conference in East London, South Africa.

The five-day event is a component of the *Building Inclusive and Green Municipalities* (BIGM) initiative, in which local South African governments work with Canadian municipal experts to focus on:

- Reducing poverty;
- Helping local governments deliver services, drive green economic growth and prepare for climate change; and
- Empowering women, youth and vulnerable groups, and ensuring their inclusion in their communities' political, economic and social life.

Activities focus on the Eastern Cape province, which suffers from some of the highest poverty levels in South Africa.

"The BIGM project aims to deliver local Canadian solutions to local South African challenges," said Mayor Bill Beamish. *"The Town of Gibsons is well known for its ground-breaking work in natural asset management, and its success in helping other local governments implement similar initiatives. We welcome this opportunity to share our expertise in South Africa, and to learn from our counterparts there as well."*

Approximately 450 people are expected to attend the Asset Management and Climate Change event, which takes place from March 4th to 8th, 2020. Other presenters include Andrew Wardell, General Manager, Finance and Chief Financial Officer, District of North Vancouver and Gracelyn Shannon, Manager of Asset Management, District of Comox Valley.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities will cover the costs of Mr. Machado's trip, including travel, accommodation, meals and incidentals.

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For more information, please contact:

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"Nature is our most valuable asset"

