



FEDERATION
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REPORT TO COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FREDERICTON, NB

SEPTEMBER 9-12, 2015

SUMMARY

The FCM Board of Directors met in Fredericton, NB on September 9-12 in what was the last meeting of its kind before the 2015 federal election. Board members spent four days addressing vital national issues playing out at the local level and setting advocacy priorities at Regional Caucus meetings, Standing Committee and Forum meetings, two Committee of the Whole meetings and the Board meeting. The details of those discussions are presented in the Committee reports that follow.

As expected, the federal election was the predominant theme throughout the meetings. On Saturday the Board approved a two-fold Shared Priority to guide FCM's strategy for keeping municipal issues on the federal agenda in the coming year. Board members committed to ramping up election activity to ensure that local priorities are front-and-centre in the election campaign. They also committed to a post-election transition strategy to position FCM as a key partner for the next government—identifying key local priorities and ensuring that campaign promises turn into meaningful legislation.

Responding to an evolving global humanitarian crisis, the Board also unanimously approved an emergency recommendation put forward by President Raymond Louie on the Syrian refugee crisis. The recommendation creates an FCM Task Force on Refugee Resettlement to coordinate the municipal response, and to share community best practices. FCM believes that municipalities are well-positioned to work with the federal government—and with our international local government partners—to help resettle Syrian refugees in Canada, while displaying the leadership that local governments are known for.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Councillor Bill Karsten began the meeting by introducing Vice-Chair Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell and Vice-Chair Mayor Edgar Rouleau, and welcoming new Committee members. Councillor Karsten then provided members with a brief overview of the mandate of the SED Committee and reminded members that the purpose of the September meeting is to establish the policy and advocacy priorities for the coming year.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2015 meeting, members were updated on the policy and advocacy work that has been undertaken by FCM since the last Board meeting. Members heard that FCM's government relations activities had resulted in modest progress on affordable housing in the 2015 federal budget and significant pre-election commitments from the Liberals, NDP and Green Party at FCM's Annual Conference in June. The Committee heard about other activities, including meetings with national Aboriginal organizations and consultations with municipalities on the implementation of the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

The Committee then turned its attention to establishing priorities for the upcoming year. Members were briefed on the Livable Hometowns section of FCM's federal election policy platform, and the need to focus on implementing these policy solutions with the new government following the election in October. The Committee received a report from Government Relations on the housing commitments that have been made by all four federal political parties in the election campaign to date.

In response to the direction that the Committee provided at the March meeting, FCM staff then presented a Detailed Priorities Memo that proposed the development of urban Aboriginal policy as a Committee priority for 2015-16. The proposal emphasized the importance of building relationships with Aboriginal organizations and developing policy in concert with what urban Aboriginal people are calling for. The Committee heard that existing advocacy work in the areas of housing and homelessness, community safety and municipal-First Nation relationship building can provide the basis for engagement with the federal government. Following the presentation, Committee members shared successful examples of relationship building in their communities.

The Committee considered a resolution calling on the federal government to review and respond to the 94 Calls to Action contained in the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission before the end of the year and recommended to the Board that it be adopted as a Category A – municipal issue.

Members received an update from Alex Long on FCM's Municipal – First Nations Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) and the Municipal – First Nations Community Infrastructure Partnership Program (CIPP). The Committee heard that each program has identified six community pairings that are now working on specific economic development and service sharing projects. Staff shared that relationship-building has been key to the success of the program. CEDI will be launching the Stronger Together Toolkit for First Nations-Municipal Community Economic Development Partnerships in September, which is a valuable tool for all municipalities.

Members were also provided with an update report on the Quality of Life Reporting Systems (QOLRS) project. Members heard that the second report in a series on Canada's aging population will be publically released in October. The report is focused on the housing needs of seniors and demonstrates that an increasing number of seniors are spending more than 30% of their income on housing. The next QOLRS report will provide a broad overview of socio-economic indicators within the QOLRS member communities related to the five themes of FCM's federal election policy platform. The next report will be the final in the QOLRS series. Going forward, FCM will evaluate different options to continue to provide timely data and analysis on social indicators.

Finally, there was agreement on the importance of an FCM response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Direct staff to develop and implement an urban Aboriginal issues work plan to build relationships and alliances with urban Aboriginal organizations; provide opportunities to share best practices and demonstrate municipal leadership on shared Aboriginal/municipal issues; and refine a policy and advocacy proposal to increase and improve the role of the federal government on urban Aboriginal issues, as the Committee-specific policy and advocacy priority for 2015-2016.
2. Support the continued meeting of the Urban Aboriginal Working Group at Board meetings with its primary functions being: (1) to engage with urban Aboriginal organizations within members' communities; (2) to provide a venue for FCM members and municipal staff to share best practices from their communities; and (3) to provide input to staff on the development of FCM policy through updates to the SED Committee at regular Committee meetings.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Sav Dhaliwal opened the meeting by welcoming Committee members and introducing Vice-Chair Brian Pincott.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2015 meeting, members were updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last Board meeting in the lead up to the next Federal Election 2015. An update was provided on the FCM-DFATD Joint Working Group's (JWG) ongoing work developing new guidance materials on CETA and investment promotion for municipalities. Staff committed to sharing the JWG terms of reference and the links to both the procurement webinar and guide to the International Trade Agreement Guide to Committee members. Staff then updated the Committee on their discussions with the federal government on the Public Transit Fund's mandatory P3 component and their successful advocacy in securing one-third federal cost-sharing for projects funded through the PTF and the P3 Canada Fund.

Following extensive discussion on the Committee-specific advocacy priority of updating the Municipal Fiscal Storyline and the specific actions that fall under the Committee's mandate, the Committee approved the recommended 2015-2016 policy and advocacy priority of Refreshing the Municipal Fiscal Storyline. Committee members provided detailed feedback on the types of questions that should be included in the Municipal Fiscal Storyline. Staff will provide a detailed update on the planning for this report at the next Board meeting.

The Committee considered two resolutions: one on a national pharmacare program and one on the federal endorsement of municipal decision-making. The Committee agreed that the pharmacare resolution should be referred back to staff for further research and analysis and recommended that the resolution calling for federal endorsement of municipal decision-making should be adopted by the Board.

An update was provided on the implications of a recent policy change by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) regarding the claim periods for municipal GST/HST rebates. This issue was brought to the attention of FCM staff earlier this year by members of FCM's Tax Committee. If the CRA and Finance Canada officials do not present a solution that addresses the concerns of the Tax Committee members, the Committee will consider recommending that the FCM Board of Directors formally call upon the federal government to clarify the policy intent of the *Excise Tax Act* in this area. An update on this recommendation will be brought forward at a future Board meeting.

The Committee also received an update on FCM's request to seek intervener status in *Canada Post Corporation v. City of Hamilton*. FCM's external legal counsel is in the process of preparing an application to the Ontario Court of Appeal for leave to intervene in this case, with active support from the City of Toronto and other members of the FCM Technical Committee on Telecommunications and Rights-of-Way Management. Committee members were also updated on FCM efforts to continue monitoring the implementation of Canada Post's Five-Point Action Plan.

A brief update on the Jack Layton Fellowship program was provided to the Committee. The municipal youth engagement handbook, produced by the 2014 cohort of fellows, was released in March 2015. The 2015 cohort of fellows participated in FCM's pre-election readiness activities, as well as the youth component of the upcoming annual conference in June.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation for adoption:

1. Direct staff to update and expand the municipal fiscal storyline as the Committee-specific policy and advocacy priority for 2015-2016.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Pauline Quinlan opened the meeting by introducing the Vice-Chairs, Paul Pirri and Scott Peace, and welcoming new and returning members. Chair Quinlan provided members with a brief overview of the mandate of the EISD Committee and reminded members that the purpose of the September meeting is to establish the policy and advocacy priorities for the coming year.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2015 meeting, members were updated on the policy and advocacy work that has been undertaken by FCM since the last Board meeting in the lead up to Federal Election 2015. In an update from FCM Senior Government Relations Advisor Adam Thompson, members heard that FCM successfully negotiated a commitment to a permanent, \$1 billion/year Public Transit Fund in Budget 2015, which will have positive GHG reduction benefits. The Committee also heard that FCM engaged with Transport Canada and Natural Resources Canada to represent municipal interests in their climate change adaptation work; participated in the Summit of the Territories in the lead up to the COP21 climate change conference in Paris; raised concerns with the National Energy Board about municipal participation in NEB hearings; and continued to pursue dedicated cost-shared resources for federal wastewater regulation implementation through the 2015 federal budget advocacy efforts. Members also heard about FCM's efforts in engaging each of the federal parties on FCM's environment priorities and staff highlighted the commitments made by each party in the campaign to date.

The Committee then turned its attention to establishing priorities for the upcoming year. Members discussed FCM shared priorities as they pertain to the EISD Committee and the policy solutions for Environmentally Sustainable Cities and Communities included in FCM's federal election policy platform. There was strong agreement about the need to focus on implementing these policy solutions with the next government following the election in October.

The Committee considered and approved the proposal for 2015-16 Committee-specific priorities to a) refine FCM's position on integrating climate change resilience into asset management and b) engage with the federal government-led initiative to assess flood risk, update floodplain maps and develop private residential flood insurance. Members discussed the value and importance of investments in climate resilient infrastructure for new as well as existing infrastructure and emphasized the need for FCM to continue to consider the unique circumstances of smaller and rural communities—particularly recognizing rural challenges regarding fiscal and human resource capacity. Members provided staff with a number of key considerations for FCM's work in developing policies and strategies regarding federal floodplain initiatives such as the need to understand the economic benefits, risks and impacts of floodplain mapping on our cities, communities and Canadians overall.

The Committee then considered five resolutions and made recommendations to the Board. The Committee received a report from the GMF Chair on its positive economic and environmental impacts, as articulated in the 2014-2015 Annual Report. Of the projects completed to date, the impacts include the treatment of 159 million cubic meters of wastewater per year, the reduction of GHG emissions by 371 thousand tonnes per year and

the diversion of 151 thousand tonnes of waste from landfill per year. These impacts are key to how GMF is building the capacity of the municipal sector, as a whole, to be more sustainable.

Finally, the Committee received an updated report and the National Zero Waste Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Direct staff to address the federal role in supporting municipal resilience to the impacts of climate change by:
 - a) developing a refined proposal for integrating climate change resilience into infrastructure investments through asset management capacity building, including for strategies for natural assets, and
 - b) researching the implications for municipalities and developing FCM's approach to the federal government-led initiative to assess flood risk, renew floodplain maps and facilitate the development of private residential flood insurance in Canada as the Committee-specific policy and advocacy priorities for 2015-2016.
2. Direct staff to coordinate a presentation by the National Energy Board leadership to the Standing Committee on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development at the next possible opportunity.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The meeting began with roundtable introductions and the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs for the coming year. Ray Orb was acclaimed as Chair, and Scott Pearce and Al Kemmere were elected as Vice-Chairs.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2015 meeting, members were updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last Board meeting, and in the lead up to the next federal election, including the launch of FCM's Action Plan for a Strong Rural Canada. Staff updated the Forum on the Connecting Canadians program and FCM's participation in the CRTC's Review of Basic Telecommunications Services. An update was also provided on FCM's work on disaster mitigation and FCM's ongoing advocacy on rail safety issues, including the Emergency Response Task Force, the Grade Crossing Regulations and Grade Crossing Improvement Program, and operational restrictions for key dangerous goods trains.

Following extensive discussion on the shared advocacy priority of implementing the Roadmap and the specific actions that fall under the Forum's mandate, the Forum approved the recommended 2015-2016 policy and advocacy priority of Raising Awareness of Rural Local Government Issues. Forum members agreed that FCM should explore a range of options to implement the Forum-specific priority, including an analysis of the merits of organizing a national conference on rural issues in 2017.

The Forum considered two resolutions: one on priority phone service restoration and one on rural post office closures. The Forum agreed with the staff recommendation to adopt the resolution on priority service restoration. The rural post office closure resolution has been deferred back to staff for further research and analysis.

Green Municipal Fund (GMF) Chair Ben Henderson then provided an update on GMF's work in small cities and rural communities. Forum members also adopted a motion to study federal programs that reflect the sustainability of communities of around 10,000 people. Staff was directed to report back on their study at the next Forum meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Direct staff to proceed with the planning of activities to raise awareness of federal-municipal issues relevant to rural local governments, possibly including a national conference on rural issues in 2017, as the Forum-specific policy and advocacy priority for 2015-2016.
2. Small, rural and urban communities of 10,000 or so be studied for programs and functions that reflect their sustainability, in conjunction with the Rural Forum and FCM administration, and that this information be brought to the next meeting.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Randy Goulden, Committee Chair and councillor with the City of Yorkton, welcomed Board members to Fredericton, including Vice-Chair Roger Doiron, Mayor of la Ville de Richibucto. The Chair also extended regrets on behalf of Vice-Chair Marie-Eve Brunet, councillor from the Ville de Montréal.

Following roundtable introductions, Committee members approved the agenda and adopted the March 2015 Report to Board as presented. The Chair then invited staff to present an update on committee activities and the action items status report, as well as a survey of the government relations outreach conducted since the last meeting. The presentation provided recent developments and ongoing items related to the economics of policing and community safety, as well as emergency management. In regards to an update item on the issue of federal support for mental health and the law, one member suggested that a report commissioned by the City of Toronto on the topic be shared with the Committee. Staff agreed to distribute the document to members ahead of the November 2015 meeting.

Discussion followed on the 2015-2016 FCM shared advocacy priority of implementing the Roadmap and the specific actions that fall under the Committee's mandate. Staff reminded members of the Committee-specific solution statements included in the platform, such as the need for investments in local policing, increased federal collaboration on mental health, proven crime prevention and early intervention policing models, the reinstatement of federal emergency preparedness and response programs, and interoperability. An overview of progress, as reflected by commitments included in each of the parties' election platforms, was also presented.

Staff then proposed a recommendation that the Committee adopt emergency management as its specific priority for the upcoming year. Three specific sub-priorities were presented to advance this:

- consultations to inform a detailed proposal making the case for a new federal emergency preparedness program, including options for both program design and costing;
- information gathering to evaluate the cost and scope of expanding the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) to additional disaster risks beyond the current focus on riverine flooding;
- consultations to inform a position on how best to improve the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program eligibility guidelines in anticipation of a review by Public Safety Canada.

Following extensive debate on the three sub-priorities, the Committee approved the recommended 2015-2016 policy and advocacy priority of emergency management.

The Committee considered three resolutions. The first, on requirements for sprinkler systems in multi-family wood-frame dwellings, was recognized by the Committee as falling outside of municipal jurisdiction and adopted as Category B. Members agreed that the second resolution, on mass casualty emergency preparedness in seismic zones, was in

concordance with existing FCM policy and classified as Category A – concurrence. The resolved clauses of the final resolution, on enforcement of the Westray Act, were considered individually by the Committee. Members concurred with staff recommendations that the first two clauses be classified as Category B, and the last two clauses be classified as Category A – concurrence. All resolutions were added to the Board consent agenda for final adoption.

Finally, staff made a brief presentation on recent developments on emergency management, which provided an overview of FCM's role on the Government of Canada's Disaster Risk Reduction Platform, rail and marine emergency response.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation for adoption:

1. Direct staff to develop a comprehensive proposal on the federal government's role in emergency management – including refined proposals on a new federal emergency preparedness program, an expanded National Disaster Mitigation Program and the roll-out of the Public Safety Broadband Network – as the Committee-specific policy and advocacy priority for 2015-2016.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION POLICY

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Jenelle Saskiw opened the meeting by welcoming Committee members and introducing Vice-Chairs Bob Long and David Price.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2015 meeting, members were updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last Board meeting, in the lead up to the next federal election. Staff updated the Committee on their discussions with the federal government on the program design and eligibility criteria of the Public Transit Fund and with federal parties on their public transit commitments, as well as the status of the New Building Canada Fund. An update was also provided on FCM's ongoing advocacy on rail safety issues, including the federal government's *Safe and Accountable Rail Act*, the Emergency Response Task Force, the Grade Crossing Regulations and Grade Crossing Improvement Program, and operational restrictions for key dangerous goods trains.

Following an update on the shared advocacy priority of implementing the Roadmap and the specific actions that fall under the Committee's mandate and an extensive discussion on the Committee-specific priority related to asset management, the Committee approved the recommended 2015-2016 policy and advocacy priorities of 1) Implementing the FCM Election Roadmap, and 2) Asset Management Capacity Building. The Committee agreed that the majority of staff resources should be focused on the shared priority of Implementing the FCM Election Roadmap, given the importance of ensuring that the federal parties' election commitments result in well-designed infrastructure programs.

The Committee considered two resolutions: one on discouraging Port Metro Vancouver from expanding on agricultural lands and one on equal standards for federal and provincial building codes. Committee members recommended to defer the Port Metro Vancouver resolution back to staff for further analysis and to propose amendments to the sponsoring municipality that would apply to all port authorities and neighbouring municipalities. The Committee recommended that the resolution on building codes be classified as Category B.

A progress update was also provided on the 2015 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Direct staff to work with the provincial-territorial municipal associations to develop a refined position on what the federal government's role could be in asset management capacity building as the Committee-specific policy and advocacy priority for 2015-2016.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Forum Vice-Chair Mayor Wayne Potoroka opened the meeting by expressing regrets from Chair Mayor Charles Furlong and Vice-Chair Mayor Jeannie Ehalaok, who were not able to attend. Vice-Chair Potoroka then introduced FCM staff attending the meeting and invited Forum members to introduce themselves. Following introductions, the Forum adopted the agenda and approved the report from the March 2015 Forum meeting.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2015 meeting, members were updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last Board meeting, in the lead up to the 2015 federal election. Members were briefed on FCM's submission to the CRTC Review of Basic Telecommunications Services and on ongoing work to represent northern and remote perspectives to the federal government on the Connecting Canadians program. Members also heard about FCM's ongoing housing advocacy work in the lead-up to Budget 2015, and with each of the federal political parties.

The Forum reviewed the solutions contained in FCM's federal election policy platform that related to northern and remote priorities, including affordable housing, emergency response and cost of living in the North. The Forum then approved the recommended 2015-2016 policy and advocacy priorities of 1) Implementing the FCM Election Roadmap, 2) Connectivity and Broadband and 3) Integrating Northern and Remote Perspectives in Climate Change Resilience, Asset Management and the National Disaster Mitigation Program. Forum members recommended that issues relevant to northern and remote communities should be integrated into the policy and advocacy priorities of FCM's Standing Committees.

Staff from the Association of Yukon Communities then provided an update on the association's ongoing work. Members also updated the Forum on emerging economic challenges in their communities and the impact of new provincial and federal policy in their municipalities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation for adoption:

1. Direct staff to:
 - a) advocate for northern and remote broadband priorities in the continued roll-out of the Connecting Canadians program and that those same priorities be the focus of FCM's continued engagement in the CRTC consultations on basic broadband service, and
 - b) ensure that the perspectives of the Northern and Remote Forum are integrated with those of FCM's Standing Committees on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development (EISD), Municipal Infrastructure Transportation (MIT), and Community Safety and Crime Prevention (CSCP) on the shared priorities of climate change resilience, asset management and the National Disaster Mitigation Program, as the Forum-specific policy and advocacy priorities for 2015-2016.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Chris Fonseca, Regional Councillor, Region of Peel, ON, welcomed Committee members, observers and staff to the meeting. She thanked returning Committee members for their contribution to the Committee's mandate and made special mention of past Committee Chairs Pam McConnell and Sylvie Goneau for their leadership and significant contribution toward the Committee's goals and objectives.

Following approval of the agenda and the report from the March 2015 Board meeting, Councillor Fonseca provided an overview of the committee's achievements during 2014-15. This included securing funding from Status of Women Canada (SWC) for a new program – the Diverse Voices for Change Initiative – to be launched in September 2015, as well as the continued increase in the activities of the Regional Champions network, and the continued success of the Committee's awards and scholarships.

Following a presentation of the shared and Committee-specific priorities by Councillor Fonseca, Committee Vice-Chair Irene Dawson and Councillor Pam McConnell, the Committee discussed the 2015-2016 Committee-specific priorities, as well as the shared priority as it relates to the Committee's mandate. The Committee approved the following as its priorities for 2015-2016:

1. *Diverse Voices for Change* program delivery and promotion
2. Regional Champions
3. Scholarships and Awards
4. International Women's Day
5. International partnerships on gender-related programs

The shared priority was also approved.

Next, Committee members discussed increasing the number and value of the Canadian Women in Municipal Government Scholarship for secondary school students and the Mayor Andrée P. Boucher Memorial Scholarship for a post-secondary student. The allocation of additional funds for promotional activities and establishing parameters for fundraising by the regional caucus in the province/region in which the annual conference will take place was also discussed. Scholarships sub-committee chair Lorrie Williams provided an overview of the role of the sub-committee in selecting the winners, and encouraged Committee members from each region to join the sub-committee. Following direction from the Committee, staff will explore ways to showcase the essays of the scholarship winners, and send criteria for the naming of the new scholarship to the Committee in advance of the March Board meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Approve the Committee-specific priorities and shared FCM priority for 2015-2016.
2. Approve increasing the five secondary school awards currently offered from \$500 to \$1000 starting this year.
3. Approve increasing the Andrée P. Boucher scholarship from \$3,000 to \$4,500 starting this year, and the addition of a second scholarship for the same amount; totaling \$9,000.
4. Allocate \$4,000 per year from the scholarship fund for promotional activities.
5. Approve the following parameters for fundraising by the regional caucus in the province/region in which the annual conference will take place:
 - Fundraising activities have a suggested target of \$3,000;
 - The activities should bring attention to and highlight the issue of women's leadership in municipal government (e.g. buttons sold by the Ontario Caucus at the Niagara Falls conference);
 - Fundraising activities undertaken in advance of the conference should be reviewed with staff to ensure they comply with FCM's sponsorship policy.

Recommendations for referral to staff:

1. Explore other activities complementary to the committee's objectives that the funds raised by the regional caucus could support, and report back to the Committee at the March 2016 Board meeting.
2. Develop an approach to measure the longer-term impact of the scholarships, for discussion at the March 2016 Board meeting.

REPORT THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Chair Roger Anderson welcomed Committee members and introduced the vice-chairs of the Committee. The members approved the agenda and the minutes from the March 2015 Board of Directors' meeting in Burnaby. The Chair and FCMI Senior Director, Sebastien Hamel, provided a brief update on the work plan of FCM's International Relations Framework 2015-2016. In 2015, FCM will focus on its engagement in international municipal networks, including the promotion of local governments in multilateral agreements, advancing development cooperation through its programs, fostering its understanding in trade and development, and supporting the engagement of Canadian municipalities and experts in its programs.

Director Rhona Martin highlighted the Terms of Reference, which were circulated to members. This was followed by a presentation of the Governance Representative Terms of Reference and the announcement of the 2015-2016 appointments. The Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED) Governance Representatives (Councillor Sylvie Goneau, Councillor Garth Frizzell and Councillor Marvin Plett) will remain in their positions until the end of the MPED program in November 2015. The Chair announced the following Governance Representative appointments: Councillor Brian Pincott for the Programme de Coopération Municipale en Haiti - PCM-2; Chair Roger Anderson for the Partnership for Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance – PLEDDG; Councillor Michael Thompson for the Caribbean Local Economic Development program – CARILED; and Councillor Garth Frizzell for the Sustainable and Inclusive Communities in Latin America program - CISAL. Calls for expression of interest to apply as Governance Representatives will be shared with members of the Committee and Table Officers as new programs become active.

The Committee received updates on the programs from the Governance Representatives and/or designate. The presentations delivered by Councillor Brian Pincott (PCM-Haiti), Councillor Harold Usher (CARILED), and Chair Roger Anderson (PLEDDG) focused on the achievements this year and activities in the upcoming months. Since 2010, Canadian municipalities have been involved in partnerships with overseas municipalities through the MPED program. With the closing of MPED in November, Councillor Marvin Plett and Councillor Sylvie Goneau presented the results achieved throughout the program.

The Chair provided an update on business development initiatives. FCM is looking to continue to build its portfolio of programs in the areas of economic prosperity, democratic governance, and disaster management. The Committee discussed the Syrian refugee crisis and heard examples of local government responses to the crisis from FCM's counterparts in Europe. FCM President Raymond Louie emphasized the importance of showing support to receive refugees as well as disseminating relevant information to members on agencies already in place to support refugees in Canada.

FCM's President provided Committee members with an overview of the Conference of Parties (COP21) climate change negotiations in Paris, France in December 2015. The goal of the negotiations is to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2 degrees. To date, FCM has participated in sub-national meetings to ensure local governments are included in international statements to be presented in Paris. FCM has also established a staff working group to monitor the

developments and engage with FCM members and the Government of Canada in the lead up to COP21. A delegation from FCM, led by the FCM President, will participate in COP21 to represent Canadian municipalities and showcase its climate change programs, such as the Partners for Climate Protection and the Green Municipal Fund.

In September, during its General Assembly, the United Nations will hold a summit to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is a universal agenda to guide development from 2015-2030 and will replace the Millennium Development Goals. Local governments have been actively involved in the development of the SDGs and have called for the inclusion of a goal on urban settlements and the localization of the targets and indicators. The Chair presented a declaration outlining FCM's response to the SDGs, which will be shared with the Government of Canada and others during the Summit.

In celebration of the closing of the MPED program, FCM's First Vice-President Clark Sommerville presented four Canadian partners—Truro, NS, Fredericton, NB, Corner Brook, NL and the Municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador—with gifts in honour of their commitment to FCM's international programming. These members helped local governments and the local government association in Bolivia improve local governance and economic policy development in the country.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendations for adoption:

It is recommended that this report be received.