



# CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

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## MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORT

**From:** Councillors Duncan Cavens and Tim Morrison

**Council Meeting:** June 19, 2023

**Subject:** Report on FCM 2023 Conference

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Councillors Duncan Cavens and Tim Morrison represented the Township of Esquimalt at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference in Toronto from May 25th to May 28<sup>th</sup>.

The conference was attended by 2,500 elected officials and senior staff from local governments across Canada. In addition to a packed schedule of seminars, workshops, and plenaries, the conference provided an excellent opportunity to discuss how other municipalities are addressing similar issues faced by Esquimalt, including a housing affordability crisis, climate change, and the need to renew and invest in infrastructure and public facilities.

The workshops and tours, hosted by Toronto planning staff and builders, highlighted various approaches to encourage and regulate infill development. These updates in zoning and regulations aim to create vibrant neighborhoods with a mix of housing types and light commercial activities, making them highly relevant to Esquimalt.

The conference had significant representation from the Federal Government, featuring plenary speeches by the Prime Minister and almost all federal party leaders. Federal staff were available to discuss grant programs and upcoming funding opportunities, such as the new housing-based long-term infrastructure federal program, which we hope will provide funding for Esquimalt.

Delegates determined the goals and objectives of the FCM organization through a series of resolutions. These resolutions will be used to lobby the federal government for increased support. It was remarkable to witness the commonality of issues faced by local governments across the country, with overwhelming support for resolutions calling for federal assistance in addressing homelessness, mental health, and a new funding model for local governments.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Cavens and Councillor Morrison