



FEDERATION  
OF CANADIAN  
MUNICIPALITIES

FÉDÉRATION  
CANADIENNE DES  
MUNICIPALITÉS

# **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

## **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OTTAWA, ON**

**NOVEMBER 17-20, 2015**

## SUMMARY

The FCM Board of Directors met in Ottawa, from November 17-20. Board members spent four days addressing vital national issues playing out at the local level during 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.

With the House of Commons not sitting, it simply was not possible to conduct the traditional Advocacy Days that normally coincide with FCM's November Board meeting. However, that did not stop FCM leadership from achieving an unprecedented level of early engagement with the new federal government. In the span of just a few days, FCM met with six federal cabinet ministers responsible for issues that are key to the municipal agenda: Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance; Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship; Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness; and Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development. FCM leadership also met with the Interim Leader of the Official Opposition, Rona Ambrose. In each one of these meetings, FCM received very positive signs that the new government fully understands the critical importance of working in partnership with municipalities.

Board members discussed the historic level of attention given to municipal priorities during the recent federal election, and the role FCM members played in making that happen. The Board received the necessary documentation to engage local MPs in their ridings and to brief them on FCM's action plan, *Cities and Communities: Partners in Canada's Future*. This document introduces FCM to the new government, offers insights into municipal priorities, and lays out what the federal government needs to do in the first 100 days of Parliament to work with municipalities to deliver on its election commitments to Canadians.

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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Chair Karsten began the meeting by introducing the Vice-Chairs and reading a portion of the Policy Statement, which was distributed to members following the September meeting.

Vice-Chair McConnell invited the Committee to attend the Urban Aboriginal Working Group meeting immediately following the Board of Directors meeting on Friday, and reported that Marc Maracle from the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition is scheduled to meet with the group to discuss municipal Aboriginal collaboration. The Committee heard that members of the Working Group have been meeting with Aboriginal leaders in their communities to explore how municipalities and Aboriginal people can work together.

Megan Stanley presented an overview of the commitments that the Liberal government has made on FCM priorities such as affordable housing, newcomer settlement services and support for urban Aboriginal communities. The Committee heard that Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, has responsibility for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and that Amarjeet Sohi, the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities will have responsibility for “social infrastructure” funding which is likely to include capital support for housing. The Committee heard that FCM staff is working with the new Ministers to better understand the Liberal housing commitments and ensure that municipal priorities, such as expiring federal social housing operating agreements, are addressed. Committee members highlighted that there are important regional differences and that federal housing programs must take these into consideration and provide sufficient flexibility. This principle will be added to FCM's transition strategy.

The Committee then received a report from Leanne Holt on FCM's Task Force on Refugee Resettlement. Leanne outlined the recent activities that the Task Force has undertaken, including meeting with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum, working closely with key staff within the federal government, gathering pertinent information from municipalities and presenting municipal concerns to the federal government. The Committee heard that the safety and security of refugees and the Canadian public are top priorities for the federal government. Committee members identified a need for more information on private sponsorship, as well as the funding and services that will be available to smaller communities, recognizing that the federal government intends to settle refugees in communities of all sizes across the country. The Committee also suggested that on-going concerns about affordable housing are raised with the federal government in the context of refugee resettlement.

Peigi Wilson then provided an update on FCM's Municipal-First Nation Community Infrastructure Partnership Program (CIPP). The Committee heard that the program is on-track to meet all of its objectives and conclude service sharing agreements between six municipal and First Nation community pairs across Canada. The current funding agreement with the federal government is scheduled to expire at the end of March, 2016 and FCM is in discussion with Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada about future programming.

Finally, the Committee had a presentation from Marc LeClair from the Métis National Council. The Committee heard about the history of the Métis Nation in western Canada and the growth of its membership to 400,000 people, making it the largest Indigenous cultural group in North America. Provincial and Territorial Métis organizations and the MNC are working with the federal government on policy and programming to support the economic and social development of Métis people, 70% of whom live in urban areas. Going forward, FCM will continue a relationship with the MNC as the Liberal government implements specific commitments it made to the Métis Nation.

**STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received.

## **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-Chairs Councillors Brian Pincott and Bev Esslinger.

The Chair introduced the agenda, which was adopted with a slight modification to the order of discussion items. Following this, the report of the September 2015 meeting was adopted and members received an update on the advocacy efforts undertaken by FCM leadership and staff since the last board meeting, including during the 2015 Federal Election period. The Committee then discussed FCM's success in securing commitments on municipal finance and international trade priorities from all federal parties. Members were then provided with an overview of the key commitments included in the Liberal Party's 2015 election platform related to public private partnerships and infrastructure financing, and an assessment of outstanding details that require clarification from the new government. Ongoing challenges with financing and funding infrastructure projects in smaller communities were top of mind during the discussion.

An update on FCM's request to intervene in *Canada Post Corporation v. City of Hamilton* was also delivered to the Committee. A subsequent presentation on FCM's attendance at the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships Conference in Toronto was also delivered.

FCM staff then updated the Committee on preparations for the 2016 Report on the Municipal Fiscal Storyline and challenges with accessing data from Statistics Canada. Following the report, members shared a number of ideas on how to optimize the next edition. Staff committed to bringing a draft report, with the exception of components requiring the new Statistics Canada data, to the March 2016 board meeting for discussion and approval.

Members were also provided an overview of the ongoing work on international trade, and the FCM-DFATD Joint Working Group on International Trade. In particular, the Committee discussed the need to work with the new government to maintain and build on progress made in recent years. Further, members asked that staff continue to monitor and engage with DFATD on emerging trade issues including the recently signed Trans Pacific Partnership agreement and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, and their potential implications for cities and communities.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received.

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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Chair Pauline Quinlan welcomed members of the Standing Committee and, following a round of introductions, adopted the amended agenda and the report from the September board meeting.

Councillor Ben Henderson delivered an update report on FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF). Discussion included strong support from the Committee for GMF programming and funding. Several suggestions were made for how to improve promotion of and access to GMF funds. Committee members also expressed appreciation for the Sustainable Communities Conference and provided suggestions for increasing municipal exposure to the conference and recommended a session specifically on how to access GMF resources. All of the support expressed for GMF culminated in the suggestion that with a new federal government in place, the timing might be ripe for a federal request to expand GMF.

Chair Quinlan delivered an update on preparations and objectives for FCM's delegation attending the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris. The FCM delegation will be there in early December and Chair Quinlan will be there representing the climate change objectives of the Standing Committee on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development. Chair Quinlan's objectives at COP21 include:

1. Building FCM credibility and advancing relationships with federal elected officials, their staff and departmental staff;
2. Accessing knowledge from other local and national governments in order to inform our future domestic policy agenda; and
3. Reporting back to members to share the lessons learned and outcomes and to inform our current policy priorities and future strategic approach on climate change.

Dan Casselman and Adam Thomson presented the outcomes of FCM's 2015 federal election campaign related to the climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities of the standing Committee. The update focused on the Liberal government's major commitments to public transit and green infrastructure funds, as well as their commitment to the Canadian Infrastructure Bank, Green Bonds, and to work with municipalities to develop a comprehensive action plan that allows Canada to better predict, prepare for, and respond to weather- related emergencies.

The final portion of the agenda was a presentation from Peter Watson, Chair and CEO of the National Energy Board (NEB). Mr. Watson's presentation ran through the full scope of the roles and responsibilities of the NEB, including NEB-lead public hearings for major pipeline and energy transmission proposal reviews and the public controversies surrounding some of the hearings. The NEB Chair's presentation concluded with a review of the liability and compensation regimes legislated under the new Pipeline Safety Act. Concerns expressed by Committee members were related to the assessment of the potential impacts of sunken diluted bitumen and the questions from municipalities that have gone unanswered through the NEB's public hearing process.

**STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Forum Chair Ray Orb opened the meeting by welcoming Forum members and extending regrets from Vice-Chairs maire Scott Pearce and AAMDC President Al Kemmere.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the September 2015 meeting, members were updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last board meeting, including during the 2015 Federal Election period. The Forum then discussed FCM's success in securing commitments on rural-specific priorities from all federal parties.

Members received a report on the key commitments included in the Liberal Party's 2015 election platform related to infrastructure, disaster mitigation and wastewater upgrades, and an assessment of outstanding details that require clarification from the new government. Following this presentation, members discussed ongoing challenges they have faced while trying to access federal infrastructure funding for their communities. The idea of a mentorship program or exchange for small communities with limited access to staff resources was proposed. Members also discussed concerns related to existing provincial funding mechanisms under BCF that are functioning well, and the possibility that they could change under the new government.

The Forum received an update on rural-specific programming at the annual conference. Forum members discussed potential opportunities for a rural-specific programming stream and an expanded Rural Forum session at the 2016 Annual Conference, along with a rural-specific plenary session at the 2017 Annual Conference. These initiatives were welcomed by members and a small ad-hoc advisory group was struck to help advise FCM staff as they move forward with this work.

The Chair and FCM staff then updated the Forum on FCM's advocacy on federal programs serving small communities, and potential advocacy opportunities with the new government.

### **FORUM RECOMMENDATION:**

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received.



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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Chair Goulden opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee to Ottawa and introducing the Vice-Chairs, président Roger Doiron, Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick and conseillère Marie-Eve Brunet, from the Ville de Montréal.

The Committee received an overview of the commitments that the main federal parties made during the election related to community safety and crime prevention. The Committee heard that the Liberal government made commitments on policing and crime prevention, emergency management and mental health. FCM has begun working with the new Minister of Public Safety to ensure that municipal perspectives are incorporated into program design and implementation.

Following the report on the transition strategy, the Committee emphasized the need for increased mental health services in communities of all sizes. Committee members raised examples of where mental health crises services have reduced local police costs and improved health and safety outcomes. The Committee identified that Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) funding must be restored along with the Liberal commitment to restore the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) program. The Committee also raised the importance of emergency service interoperability and ensuring that the cost of achieving interoperability is not downloaded to municipalities; and the need to look at municipal liability for increasing insurance costs related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) amongst first responders in the future.

The Committee expressed a desire to ensure that FCM continues to call on the federal government to hold a national public inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, which FCM's members supported at the 2015 Annual Conference. The Committee heard that a letter was sent to the previous Minister calling for a national inquiry, and that FCM will send a letter in support of a national inquiry to the new Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs. Staff will also add the issue to the Committee's Policy Statement, which will be reviewed at the March meeting.

Members then received a report on the federal government's recent Roundtable on Disaster Risk Reduction meetings in Calgary. The Committee heard that the new international United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – which was adopted by the federal government last spring – includes a strong emphasis on the municipal role and will be useful in policy development going forward. The full text of the Sendai Framework will be distributed to the Committee. The Committee also heard that the federal government continues to pursue its plans to create a private residential flood insurance market. FCM will continue to monitor this development quickly as a priority for the Standing Committee on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development.

Chair Goulden provided a report on the Joint Committee on Community Corrections and thanked CSCP members who sit on the Committee for participating.

Finally, Chair Goulden debriefed the Committee on the very successful meeting that FCM had with the new Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Ralph Goodale. The Committee heard that the new Minister was enthusiastic about working closely with FCM and ensuring that federal programs address municipal needs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received.

## **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 Councillors Bob Long and David Price.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the September 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. The Committee discussed FCM's success in securing commitments on municipal infrastructure priorities from all federal parties. Committee members expressed concerns with the NBCF's existing intake and selection processes. Members were then provided with an overview of the key commitments included in the Liberal Party's 2015 election platform related to infrastructure, public transit and wastewater upgrades, and an assessment of outstanding details that require clarification from the new government. Committee members also discussed the need to ensure federal funding is delivered for municipal projects for the 2016 construction season and the need to strike the right balance between application-based and allocation-based programs.

The Committee was provided an update on the roll-out of the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF), including an analysis of all funded projects as of August 2015. FCM staff discussed potential opportunities to address remaining challenges with the NBCF with the new government with the next Parliament. Members were then updated on FCM's collaboration with its provincial/territorial partners on identifying a federal role in asset management capacity building.

The Committee Chair and FCM staff then updated the Committee on the Rail Safety Working Group's November 2015 meeting and potential opportunities to advocate for improved rail safety measures with the new government. Staff also discussed FCM's intervention in *Rogers Communications v. Ville de Chateauguay* at the Supreme Court of Canada. Finally, the Chair debriefed the Committee on the very successful meeting that FCM had with the new Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Amarjeet Sohi. The Committee heard that the new Minister was enthusiastic about working closely with FCM and ensuring that federal programs address municipal needs.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Chair Furlong began the meeting by introducing Vice-Chair President Wayne Potoroka and presenting regrets on behalf of Vice-Chair President Jeannie Ehloak.

Dan Casselman presented an overview of the northern commitments made by all parties during the federal election, highlighting commitments to the Northern Residency Tax Deduction, the Nutrition North program and improving broadband connectivity. Staff then presented a summary of the commitments made by the Liberal government on the priorities of the Northern and Remote Forum, including housing, climate resilient infrastructure, mental health services, broadband connectivity and northern cost of living.

The Forum heard that the Liberal government has committed to a National Housing Strategy that will include the construction of new affordable housing, renovation of existing housing and operating support. FCM will work with the new government to ensure that northern and remote housing needs are addressed under the strategy, including the preservation of existing federal social housing operating agreements. Forum members pointed out that the proposed GST rebate for affordable rental housing may have limited impact in northern and remote areas.

There was discussion about the need to ensure that any changes to the Building Canada Fund take into consideration the unique perspectives of the north, and that any attempt to streamline the program does not delay projects unnecessarily. Forum members indicated that it will be important to ensure that the federal government continues to improve broadband connectivity in the North and remote areas. FCM will advocate the principle that broadband targets need to continually evolve with technology and service needs through the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) review of basic broadband service currently underway.

Forum members reported that FCM's election campaign tools, in particular the Policy Tracker, were helpful in connecting constituents to municipal issues and engaging with federal candidates. Finally, there was an update on Pan-Territorial Strategy that is currently under development between the three territorial municipal associations.

### **FORUM RECOMMENDATION:**

The Northern and Remote Forum recommends that this report be received.

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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Standing Committee Chair Chris Fonseca, Regional Councillor, Region of Peel, ON, welcomed Committee members, observers and staff to the meeting, and made specific reference to Vice-Chairs Irene Dawson and Barbara Steele and newly-hired program officer Mai Ngo.

Following approval of the agenda and the report from the September 2015 board meeting, Councillor Fonseca invited Megan Stanley, Government and Relations Officer, to provide an update on Campaign 2015 as it relates to the Committee's mandate. Following Megan's update, Chair Fonseca shared that she recently spoke with Councillor Lynda Rydholm from Thunder Bay, ON, who shared that newly-elected Minister for Status of Women Patty Hajdu attended one of FCM's campaign schools in Thunder Bay which inspired her to run for political office.

Next, Vice-Chairs Irene Dawson and Barbara Steele provided update reports on the following 2015-16 Committee-specific priorities:

1. Long-term program funding and *Diverse Voices for Change Initiative*
2. Regional Champions
3. The Promotion and Administration of the Women in Local Government and Andr  e P. Boucher Scholarships

FCM 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President Sylvie Goneau provided an update on the last Committee priority - international partnerships on gender-related programs. In relation to the scholarships, Chair Fonseca stressed the importance of both Committee members and the broader FCM board in making a final push in promoting the scholarships in their own communities.

Following approval of the update reports, Councillor Fonseca introduced Suzanne Doerge, executive director from the City for All Women Initiative (CAWI) to share key outcomes from their *Equity and Inclusion in Our Cities* initiative. This project engaged 5 cities across Canada to advance equity and inclusion in local decision making. Ms. Doerge highlighted important learnings and implications to inform the Committee as it develops its new Diverse Voices for Change Initiative. A question and answer period then followed the presentation.

Under other business, Councillor Jeff Coffman from Lethbridge, AB, brought forward a potential motion for discussion. Related to approaching the Canada Revenue Agency about creating a child care tax credit to qualifying candidates who campaign in municipal elections, staff was directed to undertake analysis and come back to the Committee with a recommendation in March.

Also under other business, Councillor Marie-  ve Brunet from the City of Montreal provided an overview of a presentation on work-life balance for elected parents and caregivers that she developed through a municipal committee in Montreal. She discussed her own experience as an elected official who became a new parent. The City of Montreal has come

up with concrete recommendations for elected officials to take parental leave without penalty. Councillor Fonseca recommended the document be translated and circulated to the Standing Committee before the March meeting, with a more in-depth presentation and discussion to occur at that meeting.

The Chair then thanked Committee members, staff and guest speakers for their engagement and participation in the meeting, and drew the meeting to a close.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

#### ***The Standing Committee recommends:***

1. That staff be directed to undertake research and provide a recommendation at the March board meeting on whether or not FCM should approach the Canadian Revenue Agency on the need for a child care tax credit to be issued to qualifying candidates who campaign in municipal elections; and
2. That this report be received.

## **REPORT THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Chair Roger Anderson welcomed Committee members and asked Sebastien Hamel, Senior Director, to introduce FCM International (FCMI). The members approved the agenda and the minutes from the September 2015 Board of Directors' meeting in Fredericton. The Chair delivered a report on FCM's current international programs and business development opportunities. He highlighted the closure of FCM's 5-year partnership program of Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED) and the compendium of best practices developed through the demonstration projects; as well as programming opportunities in asset management, democratic governance, and improvement to public services.

The Committee received an overview of FCM's analysis of the priorities of the Government of Canada. FCM staff highlighted the main issues in the Liberal Party of Canada platform related to the Standing Committee, such as official development assistance, international engagement in multilateral discussions, climate change, and international trade. In the coming months, through the Joint Working Group of FCM-Government of Canada strategic partnership, FCM will meet with Global Affairs Canada, formerly the Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development, representatives to discuss areas of shared interest and explore opportunities to strengthen Canada's role in the world through programming at the local level. An introductory meeting with the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie is organized during the board meeting. The FCM representatives will highlight examples of FCM's international programming and to reiterate the importance of the strategic partnership with the Government of Canada on development cooperation.

In September, during its General Assembly, the United Nations (UN) adopted a universal set of goals, known as the Sustainable Development Goals, to guide development from 2015-30. Local governments have been actively involved in the development of the SDGs and have called on the inclusion of a goal on urban settlements and the localization of the targets and indicators. International municipal organizations have made great progress to promote the important role of local governments in international discussions on topics such as disaster risk reduction, climate change and urban settlements. As this is a universal agenda, all UN Member States, including Canada, are asked to implement the goals in their country context. The Committee agreed to establish the a task group to explore opportunities to implement the goals in their municipalities and inform their citizens.

Madame Pauline Quinlan provided Committee members with an update on FCM's participation at the Conference of Parities (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. FCM's objectives for the mission include support to its international partners in promoting the role of local governments in addressing climate change and environmental sustainability; showcase the local government leadership on climate change across Canada and the value of FCM's Green Municipal Fund and its Partners for Climate Protection Program as a vehicle for sustainable development and emission reductions; and promotion to the Government of Canada of the integral role of local governments in achieving national climate related goals. 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.

The Committee received an update on the Syrian Refugee Taskforce by FCM staff, Leanne Holt. The taskforce has been in regular contact with bureaucrats at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to stay abreast of Canada's commitment to welcome refugees. FCM President will send a letter to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to summarize their recent meeting and to reiterate FCM's commitment to working with the government to address the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Syria.

**STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received