



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Report from: Councillor Lynda Hundleby

Subject: Report on Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) meetings of November 17-20, 2015

Council Agenda: December 21, 2015

Thank you to Mayor and Council for supporting my participation at the FCM Board and Committee meetings. As required, here is my report.

It was a privilege to attend the three days of meetings in the historic heritage-rich Chateau Laurier close to Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The building is a magnificent limestone edifice with turrets and masonry reminiscent of a French château by combining the French Renaissance style with the neo-Gothic vertical lines of the Parliament Buildings. The interior is elegantly designed with wide hallways, decorated ceilings, stained glass windows, wood panelling, and French doors. The many meeting rooms were well-equipped to handle the needs of the committees and Board including a small section to manage the simultaneous translation and its associated electronics.

I was pleased to renew acquaintances with colleagues around the country and to participate in the Standing Committee meetings to which I have been appointed: Municipal Finance and Intergovernmental Arrangements; Community Safety and Crime Prevention; and Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government. The official FCM Summary of all committee meetings is attached.

As one might expect in roomfuls of politicians, the recent results of the federal election were a highlight of conversation. It was most gratifying to see the work of FCM promoting the municipal story all through the long campaign and to recognize the wording and language of FCM throughout – in the campaign promises, the candidate speeches, and in campaign advertising. And it was especially thrilling to see more of the same in the mandate letters that were given to each of the new Ministers.

I do believe that the money provided for our FCM Membership and for my participation at Board and Committee meetings is well-spent. Local governments look forward to seeing tangible benefits of FCM advocacy in our hometowns. FCM will continue to work closely with federal department staffers and hold our elected federal leaders accountable for the promises made. To that end, Board and Committee members, myself included, will be approaching Members of Parliament in their respective constituencies to connect and update. I will be teaming up with FCM Board member and Victoria Councillor, Chris Coleman, to connect with three members of Parliament.

Local government politicians were pleased to welcome Amarjit Sohi, new Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, into our midst at an evening reception. He was known to many, as he is a former 3-term councillor with the city of Edmonton. We value his local government experience and feel his understanding of municipalities will be in our best interests.

Of note, in the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Community Safety, there was an opportunity for me to share the VicPD proposal of increasing two police officers in support of VIHA and the mental health teams. The proposal seems to fit with new strategies around inclusion, respect, partnerships, desire to reduce calls for critical service, and improvements in public service. I asked if it was possible to access any funding for such a proposal as the trial period would be two years. I was asked for some written information so I will be working on this.

The weather was pleasant, however the temperature turned nippy towards the end of the week. All in all, time well spent.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Hundleby, Councillor