



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Report from: Councillor Susan Low

Subject: FCM 2017

Council Agenda:

I attended the FCM annual conference and AGM from June 1-5 in Ottawa, Ontario.

The conference was a wonderful opportunity to meet and network with other local government representatives from across the country. The Shaw Conference Centre provided a stunning venue, and the various events that took us out of the conference venue provided a great snapshot of the nation's capital.

The focus of my report is to share notes from the two study tours I attended which I feel provide inspiration and useful information for our community. I also attended part of a workshop on Municipal Leadership on Anti-Poverty Strategies; however I had to leave mid-way through due to illness. Please see my notes attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Low

FCM Workshop: Municipal Leadership on Anti-Poverty Strategies

Kate Gunn - Edmonton Poverty-Reduction Strategy

- Mayor formed a time-limited task force starting with 20 appointees - it grew to over 200.
- Started with idea generation; also did research into attitudes of people towards ending poverty.
- The strategy had a focus on intentionally engaging Edmontonians.
- Developed a five-year road map of 35 starting-point actions on a variety of areas. Over half of the items on the road map are "owned by" people other than the city government.
- The strategy got unanimous support from Council at each step.

Focus: Looking at Poverty through a Human Rights Lens.

Poverty robs people of the chance to have a role as a contributing member of society.

City Hall School - elementary school kids come to week-long program about being an active citizen.

Aboriginal roundtable helped to define poverty - when people lack or are denied the economic, social, and cultural resources to have a quality life that sustains and facilitates full participation in the community. (Instead of using income measures)

Task Force came up with the plan, and now there is a new entity called End Poverty Edmonton. Grounded in indigenous world view.

6 Game Changers:

1. Eliminate racism
2. Livable incomes
3. Affordable housing
4. Affordable and accessible transit
5. Affordable and accessible child care
- 6.

Movement Building: becoming a truly inclusive city.

- agencies need to align their work with the end poverty strategy

Edmonton community foundation has created a community development corporation.

This is all based on the concept of collective impact.

Look up the stewardship roundtable within the secretariat.

Denise Andrea Campbell - Toronto Anti-Poverty
T.O. Prosperity

Their road map was created in just one year. 2014. Grounded by a few things:

- 1) Important work by activists that have raised the issue of poverty.
- 2) Mayor Tory and Deputy Mayor McConnell - Councillor Joe Mahavlich - champions on equity
- 3) The city became the backbone organization to develop the strategy and lead its implementation.

Aimed at a Toronto that is "truly equitable" by 2035

FCM Study Tour of Innovation Centres at Bayview Yards

Business acceleration hub - 50,000 ft².

All levels of government put in funding, plus some private sector investors.

Building in 1941 - was city workshops for public works mechanicals.

15 years ago it was declared derelict because of hazardous substances - brownfield site.

There was interest in bringing it back to a working state, eg film studio. City got a funding stream and did soil reclamation, hazardous materials removal, and brought it back to a usable state. No rezoning was required - commercial light industrial.

\$15 million from city, \$15 million from province, \$8 federal government

Includes a maker space.

It was the city that initiated this. Banks were very interested in investing. They needed to make sure there was a reasonable balance of services on site, so they couldn't have all of the major banks present.

Started using the space in November, but grand opening will likely be in September. There are active clients right now.

There are way more ideas than capacity to support them - the post secondary institutes provide additional capacity for knowledge development (training).

Some of the \$38 million funding is for operations. The rental income provides revenue that supports operations as well.

They have a waiting list of tenants. 60 companies that operate, but only 17 are in scale-up mode. Expectation is companies will stay here from 6-18 months.

Sectors:

- virtual reality
- hubcaps - intermediary
- social entrepreneurs (6)
- cyber security accelerator

Expertise needed:

- architecture firm did a concept drawing
- renovation - RFP for design-build contract

Incubator space - drop in desks, phone booths, 6-12 person boardrooms.

"Municipal Capital Facility Designation" - saves on property taxes. 1/3 of the building is open to the public, anyone can rent the spaces for events. Goal is to break even based on the rents from tenants. This building is designated heritage.

Inspiration for creating this - 15 year project. City economic development activity was spread all over the city.

Things that didn't work - Invest Ottawa tried renovating a federal building; moved into downtown and that wasn't quite enough. Needed an iconic destination building for events related to the business community.

Political support - created a business case for Council - showed it could be financially sustainable. Letters of interest and support from the users. 2013-2014 process to get approval by Council. Set up as a non-profit organization. (ICBY) Leases the facility to Invest Ottawa, which sublets space to the companies - the churn of companies is managed by the economic development agency of the city.

FCM study tour on Main Street Renewal

Complete streets framework as a way of looking at every street and deciding what the appropriate level of service for different modes of transportation should be for that street. It's different for rural, suburban, and urban street.

The road was set up for 1200 vehicles per hour now it is 900 vehicles per hour. There is now more of an emphasis on getting people into bikes and buses. Some traffic leaves during the construction process and find other routes. This was an \$80 million reconstruction for 1.8 km involves all the other underground infrastructure.

Putting utilities underground isn't funded by city. Residents and BIAs have to fund that if they want it.

The road is still under construction but cycling volume is increasing. If traffic returns to previous volumes they would be looking at a three minute delay across this piece of road.

Stakeholder Engagement

Tools used on main st

Working Group representatives from businesses, University, high school schools churches safe cycling group. 80 people on group but 20-40 would show up for any one meeting based on the topic. 21 meetings during design part of project. Working group members acted as champions for their constituency groups. Engagement means people know why the decisions were made even if they don't like it. The local neighbourhood people and businesses who live here are very happy. People Who lived in the south and use this road to try to get downtown are still not quite happy but at least they know why it happened.

Second tool was construction newsletter every two weeks to tell people what to expect and what has been completed. Two pages.

Third tool was community liaison - go to person for the businesses to deal with construction work.

Complete streets is a process for the city. It's not a set of design standards.

Public Art Program

City program for thirty years. Temporary art exhibitions are supported under the policy. Funded by 1% of dollars from construction projects of \$2 million or greater. There is a juried process for selection of projects.

Shortlisted artists made presentations to the public about their projects before the final selection was made. Art installation creates local jobs. Material choice for public art considers durability.

Streetscaping

Street scape design is tied to density and employment centres in the official community plan. Fixtures and furnishings. A limited range of colour and design options for different street designs. Streamlining options can improve efficiency of management. Concrete crosswalks mean the paint doesn't wear off as much. Better for visually impaired. New accessible aspects of pedestrian controls. Concrete tells drivers there is a crosswalk there.

They use partnerships with the BIAs to do flags and hanging baskets etc.