

## **Impact of Revised Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) meeting dates on the 2010 Adjusted Fall Schedule of Meetings**

<b>Date:</b>	December 1, 2009
<b>To:</b>	City Council
<b>From:</b>	City Clerk
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

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The Executive Committee has requested the City Clerk to report directly to the Special Meeting of City Council on December 2, 2009, with respect to FCM's meeting dates, as they relate to the recommended adjustments to the fall schedule of meetings. This report responds to that request.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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#### **The City Clerk recommends that:**

If Bill 212 is enacted by the Ontario Legislature:

1. City Council choose one of the following options for an adjusted 2010 Fall portion of the Schedule of Meetings (August to December):
  - a. Option 1 to the report (December 1, 2009) from the City Clerk, which is the previously recommended adjusted fall schedule;or
  - b. Option 2 to the report (December 1, 2009) from the City Clerk, which provides for an adjusted meeting schedule that avoids the FCM Board of Directors meeting in August.

2. The City Clerk distribute the adjusted schedule to the City's agencies and special purpose bodies with a request that they:
  - a. avoid scheduling meetings, whenever possible, that conflict with the amended schedule; and
  - b. avoid scheduling public meetings, forums, public consultations and large scale meetings on days of cultural or religious significance as noted in the amended schedule.

## **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact from this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

The City Clerk City has recommended adjustments to the fall portion of the 2010 meeting schedule for Council and its Committees due to the proposed changes to the 2010 Nomination and Municipal Election dates contained in Bill 212:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-25319.pdf>

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-25320.pdf>

At its special meeting on November 24, 2009, the Executive Committee referred the adjusted 2010 Fall portion of the Schedule of Meetings back to the City Clerk and requested the City Clerk to report directly to the Special Meeting of City Council on December 2, 2009, with respect to the meetings of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The schedule of meetings is guided by a number of scheduling assumptions and principles. Council does not meet on days of cultural significance. Council also avoids, where possible, meeting dates that conflict with the meetings of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Board of Directors and annual conference.

As well, in an election year, Council does not generally meet past Nomination Day. If Bill 212 is enacted, Nomination Day and Municipal Election Day will both move ahead by two weeks. For 2010, this means that Nomination Day would be September 10, 2010 and the Municipal Election would be held on October 25, 2010. The recommended adjustments to the fall schedule of meetings would ensure that Council finishes its last meeting prior to Nomination Day.

To complete Council's last meeting before Nomination Day, it was proposed that the legislative cycle start on August 16, 2010 and end with a Council meeting on September 1 and 2, 2010. In the event Council does not complete its business by the end of the second day, it would have overflow days on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, if necessary.

## **Impact of revised FCM Meeting Dates**

In approving its 2010 schedule last September, Council expressed its concern to FCM that its Board Meeting scheduled for September 8-11, 2010 has been scheduled on Rosh Hashanah. Council requested FCM to adjust that meeting date to avoid September 8 and 9, 2010.

We have now been advised that FCM has moved its September 8-11, 2010 Board of Director's meeting to August 30-September 2, 2010. FCM is also reviewing its November 2010 Board of Director's meeting date and may be revising that date as well.

In preparing this report, we considered various options in light of the revised FCM meeting dates.

## **Schedule Options**

Schedule the Council meeting after Nomination Day:

Council generally does not meet past Nomination Day. If Council chooses to meet after Nomination Day, the meeting would be scheduled no earlier than September 13<sup>th</sup>. Following Nomination Day, the Toronto Public Service shifts many of its resources to support the municipal election. Given that the election period will have started on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and the advance vote will begin on October 5<sup>th</sup>, this option has not been recommended.

Schedule the Council meeting around Labour Day:

Under this option, the September Council meeting would move to Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. This option accommodates the FCM Board of Directors meeting but requires that the Council meeting be scheduled around Labour Day. It also leaves Council with only a partial overflow day on September 8<sup>th</sup> in recognition of the start of Rosh Hashanah that evening. This option has not been recommended.

The City Clerk has put forward two options for Council's consideration.

## **Option 1 - the adjusted schedule as previously recommended**

The first Option is the adjusted fall schedule as previously recommended by the City Clerk in the report dated November 18, 2009. This is Option 1 attached to this report. Under Option 1, the September 2010 Council meeting remains on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting does not move to accommodate the FCM Board meeting. This option gives Council several overflow days in the event the business of Council is not completed by September 2<sup>nd</sup>. It provides for a five-week summer recess period and ensures that the cycle is completed before Nomination Day.

## **Option 2 - Starting the cycle earlier:**

The second Option is to start the legislative cycle on August 9<sup>th</sup> with a Council meeting the week of August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is Option 2 attached to this report. Option 2 would complete the entire cycle before Labour Day. This option leaves only four weeks between the July Council meeting and the start of the August meeting cycle. It accommodates the FCM Board meeting in late August and provides for Council's last meeting to be completed before Nomination Day. Under this Option there would be a shortened summer recess.

## **Conclusion**

The City Clerk has recommended that City Council adjust the Fall 2010 meeting schedule as a result of the proposed changes in the 2010 municipal election dates. This report recommends that Council choose one of two options. Option 1 does not accommodate the FCM Board of Directors meeting but provides for a longer summer recess. Option 2 accommodates the FCM Board of Directors meetings but results in a shortened summer recess. Either Option will ensure that Council's last meeting before the election is completed prior to Nomination Day.

The City Manager was consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

Ulli S. Watkiss  
City Clerk

## **Attachments**

Option 1 – Previously recommended adjustments to the Fall 2010 meeting schedule  
Option 2 – Adjusted meeting schedule that avoids the FCM Board of Directors meeting in August.