

Dear Chair Denzil Minnan-Wong and members of the Striking Committee,

I am writing this letter to request membership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has successfully positioned itself as the national voice for Canada's local governments. The FCM exercises a wide variety of methods to effectively advocate for municipalities across the country, including promoting meaningful policy change, connecting and empowering municipalities, and developing and delivering innovative solutions for communities across Canada.

However, Canada's population is changing rapidly. For the first time ever, the majority of Torontonians identify themselves as visible minorities. While in the rest of Canada, visible minorities represent more than 22 per cent of the population, with that number expected to grow to one third of the country's population.

I want to bring my experience as not only a longtime community development worker, and city councillor representing a highly diverse ward, but also as a racialized Canadian who came to this country as a refugee at the age of 16 with hopes for a better life. I want to bring this perspective to the national conversation to better represent the diverse voices that today make up a significant part of our population.

I have a long history of diversity, equity and anti-racism advocacy. I can assist the FCM strengthen their policies in these areas so that our voices are taken seriously by the two other levels of government. I want to be the voice to support of our growing diversity and the infrastructure that cities need to connect our communities.

I am no stranger to effecting local and community change. I have an extensive background in social services. I have been an active leader in a number of community organizations, including Parent Action on Drugs, Youth Gang Work Group (City of Toronto), Malvern Family Resource Centre, Malvern Community Coalition, Community Use of Schools Council, Scarborough Youth Task Group, and the Tsunami Relief Coordinating Committee, just to name a few organizations.

With my unique experiences and distinct perspective, I look forward to opportunities to network with other municipalities to share knowledge, expertise, and best practices on a national and global level.

I look forward to collaborating with other cities in order to contribute towards developing a more comprehensive, inclusive strategy for the empowerment of municipalities across Canada.

I ask to be considered to be as a member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neethan Shan".

Councillor Neethan Shan
Ward 42, Scarborough-Rouge River