Expression of Interest to Host the 2020 FCM Annual Conference - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Pam McConnell

* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.
* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.

Recommendations
Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Pam McConnell, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager to submit an expression of interest for Toronto to host the 2020 Annual Conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and to report on the status of the City’s submission, including the financial obligations to Toronto as host city by mid 2016.

Summary
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) seeks to identify a host city for its Annual Conference and Trade Show in 2020. FCM issued a Request for Proposal to host the 2020 Conference in 2015 and did not receive any responses that met their selection criteria. FCM generally seeks to secure a host city five to six years prior to the date of the event. To date, a host city for 2020 has not been selected. Host cities have been confirmed up to 2019.

FCM has communicated that it would welcome Toronto seeking to host in 2020. Toronto last hosted the FCM Conference in 2010. Given the size of the Conference and the FCM host city requirements approximately 10 cities in Canada have the capacity to host the event. The annual FCM conference brings together elected and non-elected officials from across Canada for a three-day conference and trade show. The FCM Conference annually attracts approximately 2,000 delegates, 500 companions, over 6000 exhibitor staff (private sector and government departments).

FCM maintains overall responsibility for the organization of the Conference. The host city is responsible for the organization of all social events, study tours and a companions’ program, as well as planning and implementing organizational structures to support the event (including establishing a local organizing committee, designating a host city coordinator, staff and organizing volunteers for various conference-related duties)
The cost of undertaking the host city’s responsibilities depend in part on the size of the conference and the activities planned, and does not include the in-kind support that the host city is required to provide, such as staff time. The total costs to the host city are offset by a per-delegate allocation from FCM, as well as sponsorship revenue.

There are many potential benefits to hosting the conference including both direct and indirect economic benefits of a large convention, as well as the opportunity to showcase city programs, facilities and services to other municipal representatives.

If the City is interested in hosting, a City Council resolution is required for FCM to give consideration to the City’s candidacy.

This Motion is urgent as the City must submit its expression of interest to FCM in time for its Board of Directors meeting in March, 2016.