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Report to council

Virtual meeting of FCM's Board of Directors

March 1 - 4, 2022

This document summarizes key updates from the most recent meeting of the Board of Directors and Standing Committees of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). It is designed to support board and committee members in reporting back to their local and regional councils on their progress with FCM.



Committees & forums

FCM's Board of Directors oversees various committees and forums that provide direction and insight on a wide range of issues and priorities. Highlights from this virtual meeting include:

Anti-Racism and Equity: This was the third meeting of FCM's Anti-racism and Equity committee. Participated in a learning workshop facilitated by Monumental on the topic of Anti-Black Racism in Canada. Considered options and adopted the following anti-racism and equity commitment statement to complement FCM's current vision, values, and mission: *At all levels of FCM, we commit to purposefully grounding our culture, policies and practices in an intersectional anti-racism and equity lens to challenge issues of race and correct inequities in order to reflect and improve the lives of communities across Canada.*

Community Safety and Crime Prevention: Considered a motion that was referred to the committee for recommendation by the Board of Directors in September 2021, calling on FCM to urge the federal government to suspend the issuance of new licenses for private possession of handguns. After discussion, the Committee decided it would not recommend the motion for adoption. Engaged in a strategic discussion about mental health, addiction and community wellbeing. Discussed how communities were currently supporting mental health and wellbeing of residents and where they see opportunities for FCM advocacy.

Conference Planning: Received an update on FCM's 2022 Annual Conference, which will be the first time going back to an in-person event in three years since the last conference in 2019 in Quebec City. This year's annual conference will be a hybrid event. Received an update about the details and locations of upcoming meetings of FCM's Board of Directors.

Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development: Received an update on FCM's advocacy at the COP 26 meeting in Glasgow, Scotland in October, and FCM's submissions to the Net-Zero Advisory Body (NZAB) and the 2030 Federal Emissions Reduction Plan. Received an update on progress to date on the development of the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS). Welcomed a guest presentation from Jan Polderman, Mayor of the Village of Lytton and Steve Rice, Electoral Area Director for Area 1 "Blue Sky Country", Thompson Nicola Regional District, who discussed their recent experiences with wildfires and flooding in BC. Received updates on FCM's Green Municipal Fund and the Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program, including recommendations for FCM advocacy as part of the federal Budget 2022 consultations.

International Relations: Received a presentation highlighting FCM's 35 years of international cooperation and an update on international program development. FCM will explore opportunities and areas of growth that will create stability in the international programming portfolio and build on FCM's record to deliver results and impact. The committee will be invited to participate in the development of the plan and will receive an update in September.

Municipal Finance and Intergovernmental Arrangements: Received a report from the Chair on the state of federal-municipal relations and FCM's federal budget priorities. Discussed the mandate letters for the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, which recommits the federal government to a nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous governments, and new Minister responsible for both intergovernmental relations and infrastructure. Learned that FCM will be establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Action Working Group this spring, which all members of FCM's Board of Directors will be welcome to participate in. Approved updates to the Terms of Reference for FCM's Legal Defense Fund and approved an intervention on behalf of the City of Sudbury in a case pertaining to municipal liability for the actions of construction contractors.

Municipal Infrastructure and Transportation Policy: Received an update on FCM's infrastructure and transit priorities for the 2022 federal budget, including doubling the Canada Community-Building Fund (the Gas Tax Fund), creating a new dedicated water infrastructure fund, and federal leadership on inter-community passenger bus service. Approved a recommendation to expand FCM's policy and advocacy work on broadband and telecommunications to include digital affordability. Received a presentation from Vice-Chair Pellegrini about York Region's transit expansion. Received a presentation from Reeve Ralph Groening (Rural Municipality of Morris, MB) about his community's journey with FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program. Received an update from Vice-Chair Elliot about the anti-racism and equity work in cycling infrastructure she is undertaking with the Ontario Good Roads Association.

Northern and Remote Forum: Received a presentation on the progress being made connecting every Canadian to a reliable internet connection, highlighting important progress that has been made over the past three years, while noting the significant challenges that remain. Received an update on the FCM-Statistics Canada data partnership and northern and remote data needs. Welcomed the CMHC's Northern and Indigenous Housing policy team, who provided an update on Indigenous housing policy development at CMHC and participated in a round of Q & A.

Rural Forum: Received an update from FCM CEO Carole Saab on FCM's rural pre-budget advocacy priorities in advance of a meeting with Minister Hutchings. Received an update on ongoing Rural Forum priorities, including FCM's efforts to change to the federal *Fisheries Act* so that low-risk and routine municipal operations and infrastructure projects don't require complicated and expensive federal approvals. Received a presentation on the progress being made connecting every Canadian to a reliable internet connection, including significant new federal and provincial/territorial funding commitments that have been achieved over the past three years. The Rural Forum reconvened on February 28 to meet with Rural Economic Development Minister Gudie Hutchings.

Social-Economic Development: Received policy and advocacy updates concerning the Housing Accelerator Fund and FCM's advocacy on housing and homelessness policy. Received an update on the National Housing Supply Summit that took place the day before, hearing from committee members on their experience, feedback and comments regarding the day. Received an update on a motion brought forward by Toronto Councillor Ainslie in March requesting that FCM staff investigate a federal leadership role in the collection of Canada-wide data related to homeless deaths, to inform federal, provincial and municipal actions including to reduce chronic homelessness. FCM is leveraging its partnership with Statistics Canada to examine opportunities for municipal input on how to enhance federal data collection in this area. Received two expert presentations from Noah Zon, Co-founder of Springboard Policy on housing affordability models, and the Ontario Council of

Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), on the future of immigration in Canada and how municipalities should prepare.

Women's Participation in Municipal Government: Received an update on FCM's Canada Women in Local Leadership (CanWILL) program, a 3-year, \$1.5 million project that will aim to increase the political empowerment of women in municipal leadership, particularly those who are underrepresented in municipal office, and create more inclusive contexts fostering women's active participation and leadership in local government. Since the September meeting, CanWILL has launched and allocated the Inclusive Community Initiatives (ICI) grant funding to nine initiatives across the country. Welcomed recipients of the ICI funding to share their visions for the initiatives. Received an update on FCM's Women in Municipal Government scholarships and award.



Resolutions

FCM members submit resolutions for the Board's consideration on subjects of national municipal interest. Our process recognizes diverse voices while providing a focus for building a united municipal voice to drive concrete action. Resolutions adopted at this meeting include:

RCMP Body-worn Cameras: This resolution calls on the federal government to absorb the costs associated with the deployment and operation of body-worn cameras for RCMP officers and not download these costs to municipal contract partners.

Cannabis Knowledge Sharing: This resolution calls on the federal government to ensure that municipalities are given open and continuous access to information on all licensed sites of cannabis production within their boundaries so that they can effectively enforce local bylaws.

Senior's Caregiver Benefit: This resolution calls on the federal government to work with stakeholders, including FCM and the Canadian Medical Association, to identify the best options for providing federal financial incentives to caregivers of seniors to support ageing in place.

Measures to Tackle Islamophobia: This resolution calls on the federal government to consult municipalities in the process of establishing an Office of the Special Representative to address Islamophobia.

FCM resolutions database:

<https://fcm.ca/en/about-fcm/corporate-resources/fcm-resolutions>