



London
CANADA

300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON
N6A 4L9

July 8, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As members of Council who travelled to Calgary for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities annual conference (June 6-9, 2024), we wanted to provide you with an update and some key takeaways. The conference was the largest ever held, with over 3,000 delegates, during an emergency water advisory. Despite this setback, Mayor Gondek and Calgary were exceptional hosts and there was a lot of good information shared over the few days. Here are some key learnings from Team London for your consideration and discussion.

Key Takeaways:

Municipal Growth Framework

- A common discussion topic with all the political keynotes and in many workshops and plenary sessions was a new municipal growth framework required to provide municipalities with the funding they need to succeed.
- Every political speaker was asked if they would move the MGF requests forward, and most agreed. Many speakers indicated that the provinces will need to come to the table to discuss this as well, so possibly a discussion with AMO is needed to ensure alignment with the MGF.
- FCM has released an updated report on the MGF which you can [read here](#).

Workshops & Study Tours

- Councillor Franke attended the “*Tipi, IndigiTrail and Bird Sanctuary Study Tour*” to learn how Calgary is working on their reconciliation efforts. As well, she attended the “*Shifting to resilient, net-zero communities: Leveraging the Green Municipal Fund*” and learned about programs from Bridgewater, NS on energy poverty, the local district energy systems from Richmond, BC and the funding opportunities for these projects. She also attended a workshop on “*Exploring innovative models of mental health crisis response*” to learn how other cities are offering crisis outreach programs (similar to London Cares outreach). Councillor Franke intends to bring forward more reports and suggestions based on this knowledge.



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London Representation at FCM

As you are all likely aware, Mayor Morgan has become the Chair of the Big City's Mayor Caucus for FCM. You can read more information about his successful election [here](#).

Councillor Franke was also re-elected to the Ontario Caucus for the Board of Directors and will continue to bring the London and Southwestern Ontario voice to Board meetings. If you have any resolutions that would have a federal impact, please connect with Councillor Franke to work it through the FCM Resolution process and seek support from other municipalities.

Relevant Approved Resolutions:

Harassment of Elected Officials

- In recent years, there has been an alarming rise in incidents of harassment, intimidation and acts of violence aimed at elected local government officials, compounding the already strenuous work conditions faced by many local leaders and hindering their retention; and
- all elected officials have an ability to show leadership on this issue by modeling behaviour, and should always strive to elevate debate, embrace differences of opinion, disagree respectfully and focus on issues of policy and substance; now therefore be it
- That the federal government, work with provinces, territories, and local governments, including through FCM, to identify and implement measures to protect elected local government officials, their family members, and staff – especially women, members of Black and racialized communities, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous people – from harassment, intimidation, and threats, thereby reinforcing a unified front to safeguard democracy; and be it further
- That FCM calls on all elected officials of all orders of government to lead by example, demonstrating civility and mutual respect for their political counterparts.

Federal Support for Food Banks

- FCM calls on the Federal Government to help address the food insecurity crisis by providing emergency funding to food banks, food rescue agencies, and farmers markets providing emergency food assistance, and recognize the systemic issues involved in food bank usage, including affordability, inequality, core housing need and insufficient social supports, in order to end food insecurity.



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Enhancing Shelter Supports for Women and Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

- That FCM calls on the federal government to create a permanent fund, open to local governments and community organizations, for the construction of shelters and transitional housing for women and survivors of intimate partner violence, including housing appropriate for Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and persons with disabilities, with a dedicated rural, remote, and Northern (RRN) stream; and
- That FCM calls on the federal government to work with the provinces and territories to provide permanent operational funding, open to local governments and community organizations, for shelters, transitional housing, and supportive housing for women and survivors of intimate partner violence, including Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and persons with disabilities.

Thank you for your support for London's advocacy role at the federal level,

Skylar Franke
Ward 11 City Councillor

Josh Morgan
Mayor