



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

London
CANADA

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January 7, 2014

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee

Re: Report of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting – Ottawa,
ON, November 26-29, 2013

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board of Directors met in Ottawa, ON, for its 2013 Advocacy Days and Meeting of the Board of Directors, from November 26-29, 2013. We are pleased to provide you with the attached FCM "Report to Council", which provides a summary of discussions and recommendations arising from the various standing committees and forums held during this meeting period. We would like to draw your attention to the overview page which you may find of particular interest given the City of London's ongoing efforts in these issues.

Respectfully submitted by:

Harold Usher
Councillor, Ward 12
FCM Board Member

Joni Baechler
Councillor, Ward 5
FCM Standing Committee Member

Attachment



REPORT TO COUNCIL

2013 FCM Advocacy Days and Meeting of the Board of Directors

OTTAWA, ON

NOVEMBER 26 – 29, 2013



OVERVIEW

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2013 FCM Advocacy Days and Meeting of the Board of Directors took place in Ottawa from November 26 – 29, 2013.

Advocacy Days

During Advocacy Days, FCM board members met with 141 members of Parliament and senators. President Dauphin, First Vice-President Brad Woodside, Second Vice-President Raymond Louie, Third Vice-President Clarke Somerville and Vice-President at Large Ben Henderson also met with the Prime Minister, who was joined by Ministers Kenney, Lebel, Raitt and Bergen.

FCM members thanked parliamentarians for their cooperation on various issues and talked about FCM priorities: the housing crunch, renewing the Building Canada Fund for infrastructure, and railway safety. MPs indicated that they highly value FCM support and welcome our partnership approach to issues such as infrastructure, trade and rail-safety.

Members noted that MPs from all parties recognize the importance of the housing issue, but government MPs indicated that balancing the federal budget by 2015 is the top priority and future funding will be considered within that context.

National Board Meetings

Board members participated in Regional Caucus meetings, Standing Committee and Forum meetings and a Committee of the Whole meeting. In these meetings, they discussed a broad range of important municipal issues that are presented in detail in the committee reports that follow.

Board members also welcomed Councillor Ben Henderson of Edmonton to the role of Vice-President at Large, a temporary position he will hold until the 2014 AGM. This position was created after the departure of Past President Karen Leibovici.

Cabinet ministers Denis Lebel (infrastructure and communities) and Ed Fast (international trade), and Leader of the Official Opposition Tom Mulcair met with table officers and gave keynote speeches.

Meetings with Minister Lebel indicated that government commitments to consult FCM on the Building Canada Fund and launch the program by April 1 are at risk, as is the dedicated Small Communities Component requested by FCM. The Board moved that staff seek clarification of the government's intentions immediately.

In his speech to members, Minister Ed Fast named FCM as a key partner in the new federal trade and investment strategy. President Dauphin called this development welcome news for Canada's cities and communities because it opens the door to a much stronger economic partnership between the federal government and local governments.



SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2014 AND 2015

Meetings of FCM's Board of Directors

March 5 - 8, 2014	Thunder Bay, ON
September 3 - 6, 2014	Saguenay, QC
November 18 - 21, 2014	Ottawa, ON
March 4-7, 2015	Burnaby, BC
September 9-12, 2015	Fredericton, NB
November 17-20, 2015	Ottawa, ON

FCM Annual Conferences

May 30 - June 2, 2014	Niagara Falls, ON
June 5 - June 8, 2015	Edmonton, AB

Sustainable Communities Conferences

February 12 - 14, 2014	Charlottetown, PEI
February 10 - 12, 2015	London, ON



STANDING COMMITTEES AND FORUMS

FCM's standing committees and forums met to discuss the latest developments and to make recommendations to the Board of Directors. A summary of these activities is provided below.

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Michelle Morin-Doyle began the meeting by welcoming members and conveyed Vice-Chair Dorothy Hector's regrets as she was unable to attend the meeting. The committee then adopted the agenda and approved the report of the previous meeting.

The main item of discussion was the Principles to Protect Municipal Interests in Federal Assessment Processes. The proposed principles were developed in response to a recommendation of the Standing Committee on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development that was adopted by the FCM Board at its September, 2013 meeting to:

Develop municipal principles for responsible resource development that impacts cities and communities, including the development of associated infrastructure, to help guide federal decision making and approvals of these projects.

The discussion was lead off by a proposed amendment to the principles with the intent to bring greater balance to the economic, environmental and social priorities of local government and how that balance was reflected in the principles. After significant discussion of the amendment, the proposed amendment was withdrawn agreeing that the intent of the amendment could be satisfactorily reflected in an amendment to the principles originally proposed by staff. The amendment added, "and the health and integrity of the local environment" to the first principle. The amended principles were adopted unanimously by the Committee.

A brief oral update was provided by staff on the Committee's research work plan to support 2015 election readiness. Members of the Committee wanted to understand the timelines and process for seeking the approval of the Committee for the ultimate direction the research will take and the final policy positions being put forward as the Committee's contribution to FCM's election 2015 policy platform.

Next was a presentation by James Arnott, Manager of the Wastewater Program at Environment Canada on the status of implementing the federal Wastewater Effluent Systems Regulations. Committee members reminded Mr. Arnott of the unfunded nature of the regulations and were interested in the progress and general framework for federal-provincial equivalency agreements.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Councillor Shelley Carroll provided a brief update on the progress of the National Zero Waste Council which was officially launched on October 16,

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2013. Councillor Shelley Carroll and Councillor and Vice-chair Bill Karsten have seats on each of the management bodies of the Council representing their municipalities and as ad-hoc representatives of FCM. Dan Casselman, policy advisor to this Committee also sits on the Council's Management Board. The municipalities around the table were encouraged to join the Council and to participate on the Council's working groups.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the three "federal assessment principles," as shown in Annex 1 below; and
2. The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

ANNEX 1: Principles to Protect Municipal Interests in Federal Assessment Processes

Municipalities regularly participate in federal, provincial or territorial assessment and review processes for larger projects, where the outcomes have local impact on areas of municipal responsibility. Major new projects subject to these review processes, especially resource development projects, are essential to the economic prosperity and quality of life of local communities, particularly for rural, remote and northern communities.

The following three principles are proposed in those areas where local governments have a legitimate interest to ensure their rights and responsibilities are protected:

- a. Protect and strengthen local economies, quality of life and the health and integrity of the local environment as top priorities in federal assessment and review processes:**
 - A project's contribution towards local economies must be a priority in federal review and assessment processes, and must also be balanced with the environmental and social priorities of local communities.
 - Municipal interests must be respected and reflected in federal assessment and review process.
 - Federal review and assessment processes must be efficient and ensure effective "smart government" coordination between government and departments.
- b. Equip and support municipal first responders to respond to emergencies related to proposed projects:**
 - Municipalities need to know what dangerous goods are being transported through, stored or used in their communities so local services can plan and respond effectively to emergencies.
 - Private sector project operators and federal, provincial and territorial oversight agencies cannot plan for emergencies alone. Local governments and authorities must be involved as partners in emergency planning.
- c. Prevent downloading of project-related safety, emergency response and other costs to municipal taxpayers:**

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- Third-party liability insurance systems must be sufficient to prevent the downloading of liability costs on municipal taxpayers, even in the event of the bankruptcy of the original insurance holder.
- Municipal first responders must be equipped and supported to effectively respond to an emergency arising from a new federally-regulated project.
- Up front costs associated with participation in a federal review process and back end costs resulting from any unrecoverable burden placed on municipal services and infrastructure by a federally-regulated project must not be unfairly imposed on local governments.

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REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Don Downe welcomed new and returning committee members to Ottawa. The Chair introduced the Vice-Chairs, Sav Dhaliwal and Mike O'Donnell.

The committee approved the report from the September 2013 meeting and staff provided an update on the Action Items Status Report, highlighting the work done to date on the committee priorities.

The committee then reviewed the objectives and messaging for Advocacy Days meetings with Parliamentarians, and members discussed their perceptions of how FCM's focus on housing and the federal-municipal partnership has been received. Comments included strong support for the tailored handout on housing that was included in MP information packages.

Next, staff provided an update on the next State of the Cities and Communities Report scheduled to be released in September 2014. The report will renew FCM's data on the municipal fiscal imbalance, last updated in 2006, using a new FCM survey of municipal treasurers. Staff reiterated the importance of this survey given changes to Statistics Canada's collection of public finance data, and the fact that the fiscal imbalance storyline is central to FCM's advocacy work. Member comments included the need to ensure a high response rate and the credibility of data collected.

The Chair then provided an update on information currently known about the Canada-E.U. trade agreement. While the Agreement in Principle appears to be consistent with FCM's seven principles, the Chair indicated it will be important to review the final details as they are released over the coming years. On the issue of procurement, the Chair reiterated FCM's position that the agreement cannot lead to increased red tape and administrative costs for municipalities. The committee agreed it would be important for FCM to conduct a SWOT analysis to help inform FCM's engagement with the government on future trade negotiations.

Staff then provided a report on the current status of the federal-municipal partnership with the federal government on trade, and the need to continue exploring opportunities to build effective partnerships with the Government of Canada around international investment attraction.

Finally, staff provided an update on Payments-in-Lieu of Taxes indicating that FCM is working to secure a meeting with the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada to promote a common understanding of the importance of PILT payments to cities and communities.

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STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

FCM continue to monitor and report on details of the Canada-E.U. Trade Agreement as they become available;

Staff continue to explore opportunities to build effective partnerships with the Government of Canada around international investment attraction; and

Conduct a SWOT analysis of our engagement on CETA to help inform FCM's engagement with the government on future trade negotiations.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Chair Michael Thompson gave a warm welcome to committee members and introduced new board members who have joined FCM following the Quebec and Alberta municipal elections this fall.

Staff provided an update on FCM's work with senior officials and political staff within Public Safety Canada on the proposed federal programs for disaster mitigation and the Economics of Policing. Vice Chair Councillor Randy Goulden provided an update on her recent presentation on the Economics of Policing at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association annual conference.

The Committee received and discussed staff's report on the Federal Role in Public Safety and Mental Health. Members identified addiction, housing and homelessness, specifically the need for supportive and transitional housing, as key areas of federal-municipal jurisdiction that staff will further explore for future policy recommendations and potential advocacy.

Councillors Chris Coleman and Dave Hodgins provided an update as FCM representatives on the Disaster Resilient Communities Working Group (DRCW) and FCM's participation at the third annual National Roundtable on Disaster Risk Reduction. The DRCW is developing community disaster response and resilience tools and staff will work with the FCM representatives to consider how we can expand the relationship between the DRCW and municipalities.

The Committee received the minutes and update on the meeting of the Joint Committee on Community Corrections presented by Regional Director Susan Gimse, the Joint Committee's Co-Chair. FCM members of the committee continue to look for meaningful areas of collaboration between Correctional Services Canada and municipal governments.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

Commit research resources to develop a more comprehensive policy position and response to drivers of policing costs including mental health and other areas that intersect with federal responsibilities.

Adopt the revised Terms of Reference between FCM and Public Safety Canada for the Joint Committee on Community Corrections.

Recommendations for referral to staff:

Direct staff to bring recommendations forward at the next meeting of the Board of Directors on potential collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, Correctional Services



Canada, Parole Board of Canada and Public Safety on the issue of offender reintegration and who communities can best assist them.

Direct staff to bring forward suggestions to the committee as to how members can take a stand against bullying within governments.

Direct staff to work with our Provincial and Territorial Association partners to raise, to a national level, the issue of contract arbitration for police and public safety officers.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Chair David Marit welcomed everyone to the Forum, followed by roundtable introductions.

After approval of the agenda and minutes, the Forum reviewed the objectives and messages for the Advocacy Days meetings, in particular federal-municipal partnership and the importance of FCM's Housing Crunch campaign to rural and remote communities. Staff then gave a brief review of the Action Items Status Report.

The Forum was then provided with an overview of the research reports currently in development on rural sustainability and rural broadband. The broadband report card will tell a high-level narrative story about the need for continual growth in the level of bandwidth available to support growing user needs in rural communities.

Next, staff provided a detail overview of the newly announced DFO Fisheries Protection Program, which implements the federal government's previous commitment to update the Fisheries Act as requested by the Forum. Members discussed the specifics of the new program, and asked staff to report back on implementation issues, including the definition of "spacial scale" and "mitigation."

A presentation was then made on the rural key messages that have been developed for the Housing Crunch campaign. Members agreed strongly with the need to emphasize the housing needs related to a rapidly aging population, and the lack of private capital to address all rural housing needs.

Staff then provided a review of FCM's rail safety priority areas, including the need for improvements to emergency planning, emergency response, risk management and insurance and liability.

Finally, the Forum discussed a memo on Principles to Protect Municipal Interests in Federal Assessment Processes. The proposed principles were developed in response to a recommendation of the Board at its September, 2013 meeting. After staff gave an overview of the memo and presented amendments adopted separately at the Standing Committee on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development, the Chair led a discussion of the proposed principles. Members agreed with the proposal in principle, and asked staff to keep the Forum included in future discussions about the principles. In particular, members discussed the need for the third principle on preventing downloading of costs to be expanded beyond emergency response and liability to include servicing costs borne by regional centres. The Chair asked members to take the principles back to their respective Boards for feedback, and the Forum agreed to discuss the issue further at the next meeting.

FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:



Adopt the three “federal assessment principles,” as shown in Annex 1 below; and

Recommendations for referral to staff:

Provide an update at the next meeting of the Forum on the implementation of the new DFO Fisheries Protection Program.

The Forum recommends this report be received.

ANNEX 1: Principles to Protect Municipal Interests in Federal Assessment Processes

Municipalities regularly participate in federal, provincial or territorial assessment and review processes for larger projects, where the outcomes have local impact on areas of municipal responsibility. Major new projects subject to these review processes, especially resource development projects, are essential to the economic prosperity and quality of life of local communities, particularly for rural, remote and northern communities.

The following three principles are proposed in those areas where local governments have a legitimate interest to ensure their rights and responsibilities are protected:

a. Protect and strengthen local economies, quality of life and the health and integrity of the local environment as top priorities in federal assessment and review processes:

- A project's contribution towards local economies must be a priority in federal review and assessment processes, and must also be balanced with the environmental and social priorities of local communities:
- Municipal interests must be respected and reflected in federal assessment and review process.
- Federal review and assessment processes must be efficient and ensure effective "smart government" coordination between government and departments.

b. Equip and support municipal first responders to respond to emergencies related to proposed projects:

- Municipalities need to know what dangerous goods are being transported through, stored or used in their communities so local services can plan and respond effectively to emergencies.
- Private sector project operators and federal, provincial and territorial oversight agencies cannot plan for emergencies alone. Local governments and authorities must be involved as partners in emergency planning.

c. Prevent downloading of project-related safety, emergency response and other costs to municipal taxpayers:

- Third-party liability insurance systems must be sufficient to prevent the downloading of liability costs on municipal taxpayers, even in the event of the bankruptcy of the original insurance holder.
- Municipal first responders must be equipped and supported to effectively respond to an emergency arising from a new federally-regulated project.
- Up front costs associated with participation in a federal review process and back end costs resulting from any unrecoverable burden placed on municipal services and infrastructure by a federally-regulated project must not be unfairly imposed on local governments.

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The Chair welcomed the committee to Ottawa and led a round of introductions followed by a discussion about Advocacy Days.

During the Advocacy Days debrief, committee members noted that there is a general understanding by Members of Parliament that housing is an issue to be tackled. Although differing concerns from urban to rural to northern communities, whether it's social housing, rental housing or homeownership, housing is an emerging issue. Many members were impressed with the generally high level of understanding on Parliament Hill of housing concerns across the housing spectrum.

The value of partnership with municipalities and FCM was another common theme that emerged.

The committee provided valuable feedback and constructive comments and ideas to ensure even greater success at next year's Advocacy Days.

Staff provided an update on FCM's Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch campaign. Since its launch under a month ago, the campaign has generated 90 media stories, 40 resolutions, 10 past and upcoming municipal housing round tables, and close to 2000 hits on social media. Staff also provided an update on the upcoming report on seniors' housing needs coming out of FCM's Quality of Life Reporting System.

The committee received a presentation on the positive progress of National Program's Municipal-First Nations Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI). Launched in Winnipeg in October, CEDI aims to improve the economic prosperity of participating municipalities and adjacent First Nations through joint community economic development planning.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. That FCM continue to monitor and report on the HPS and respond as necessary.
2. Receive the Terms of Reference for the National Forum on Housing and the Economy.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.



REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION POLICY

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Vice-Chair Jenelle Saskiw chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair Doug Reycraft. The Vice-Chair welcomed new and returning members to the committee.

After approval of the agenda and the minutes of the September 2013 meeting, the Committee discussed the Advocacy Days. Members felt that they were well-prepared for their meetings and noted that the strategy of thanking MPs for collaborating on infrastructure and rail safety helped facilitate a conversation about housing. Members agreed that the scheduling and logistics were very well-organized, and that the materials provided to MPs including riding-specific data was well-received.

Following a review of the Action Items Status Report, an update was provided on rights of way issues. Staff noted that the CRTC unexpectedly endorsed all recommendations made by the municipal sector during the model municipal access agreement proceeding. As a result, only a few non-consensus issues would need to be negotiated between carriers and municipalities using the model MAA to help facilitate a new agreement.

The Committee was then provided with an update on the new Building Canada Plan. Staff indicated that the renewal and indexing of the GTF promised in the 2013 federal budget has generally progressed well. The template agreements generally streamline administration while adding significant flexibility on how funds can be allocated. The agreements significantly raise requirements for project funding visibility, and for asset management, but do so with reasonable flexibility.

On the status of the new Building Canada Fund (BCF), staff indicated that various issues remain unclear, in particular the status of the Small Communities Component. The committee moved an emergency recommendation on the need for immediate clarification on the status of FCM's six principles for the program design of the new BCF.

A presentation was then provided on FCM's research on best practices in asset management and recommendations for a new program, yet to be proposed to the federal government on support for asset management capacity building.

Finally, staff provided an overview of FCM's rail safety priority areas. In particular, it was noted that the November 20 announcement of new Protective Direction by the Minister of Transport represent a significant first step towards addressing the priorities set forth by FCM's National Rail Safety Working Group. The committee moved that the Working Group's mandate be extended in order to support FCM's advocacy with the federal government on rail safety and the transportation of dangerous goods.



STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. That the mandate of the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group be extended to provide continued political guidance to FCM on discussions with the federal government on rail safety and the transportation of dangerous goods.

Emergency recommendations for referral to the Executive Committee:

2. That the Executive Committee immediately clarify the status of the Building Canada Fund program design negotiations and strongly communicate the municipal sector's concerns around the lack of progress in addressing FCM's program design principles, in particular the status of the Small Communities Component.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Lise Burcher welcomed everyone to Ottawa and invited committee members, observers and staff to introduce themselves. The Committee approved the agenda and the minutes of the September 2013 meeting in St. Johns. The chair provided an update on initial staff findings regarding a funding decision by the Canadian International Development Agency to a Canadian organization operating within Uganda, a country in which the gay and lesbian community is undergoing persecution. SCIR members received this initial report and it was recommended that staff prepare a full report on the issue for distribution and discussion at the March 2014 SCIR.

The Committee received updates from FCM's International Program governance representatives on three of FCM International's international development programs, including the Global Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED), Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development Program (MLED), and the Caribbean Local Economic Development Program (CARILED).

Committee Vice-Chair Roger Anderson provided an update on FCM's efforts following the typhoon that struck the Philippines earlier in the month. Shortly following the disaster, FCM reached out to its municipal partners in the Philippines, the Government of Canada, and humanitarian organizations to offer assistance. An initial communiqué was also sent to members encouraging donations to the Red Cross' Typhoon Haiyan fund. With over 20 years of partnership experience in the Philippines and almost 10 years in post-disaster reconstruction, FCM is well aware of the challenges local governments in the Philippines are facing. FCM International is currently exploring possibilities to secure funding for assistance and will continue to update the committee on the progress of the Department of foreign affairs trade and development (DFATD) file.

Councillor Pam McConnell brought forward a motion to the committee on behalf of the City of Toronto in response to the tragedy in the Philippines. The motion expressed support for FCM's actions in the Philippines and the city council agree to consider any formal request from FCM for technical partnership assistance. The committee noted the resolution and encouraged other members to offer support should a reconstruction program occur in the future.

The Committee also received updates on meetings that took place during advocacy days. The objectives for this year were to raise awareness around FCM International's priorities, build support for the Ukraine program renewal, and discuss the proposal on local government in mining communities' with key stakeholders. Productive meetings were held with MP Paul Dewar, Vice Chair of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Development, Jose Antonio Bellina, Ambassador of Peru, Harry Narine Nawbatt, the High Commissioner of Guyana, and a Ukrainian parliamentary group, including Senator Ted Opitz. Next steps for the upcoming months will be to deepen discussions with senior Canadian government officials as well as the Ministers responsible for DFATD.



Committee Vice-Chair Garth Frizzell introduced the new governance representative for MPED Latin America, Councillor Marvin Plett from Winkler, Manitoba. Councillor Frizzell also provided an update on the governance working group that was convened in the fall. This group is tasked with refreshing the committee terms of reference and optimizing FCM International board oversight. Two rounds of consultations have occurred and the documents under review will be ready for final validation by the committee in March 2014. Finally, the launch of a new round of recruitment for Francophone governance representatives in the MPED Africa and Haiti programs was announced. Recruitment will begin in early December '13.

The Committee continued the process of renewing FCM's current international relations framework. Aligned with FCM's 2012-17 Strategic Plan, the goal of the renewal is to provide a strategic direction for FCM's existing international activities and identify potential new areas of involvement. Small working group discussions were held around three key areas: international policy and advocacy, international programs, and international municipal knowledge exchange. Proposed strategic objectives were refined and potential key activities were identified during the session. A draft of the framework will be brought to the committee for more consultation in March 2014.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Erin Hogan (Thompson, MB) welcomed Committee members to Ottawa and introduced the Committee Vice-Chairs: Councillor Linda Rydholm of the City of Thunder Bay, ON, and Director Susan Gimse of the Regional District of Squamish-Lillooet, BC. The Committee members and observers were then invited to introduce themselves.

The Standing Committee approved the agenda and the report from the St. John's Board Meeting. The Chair then briefed the Committee on the recent meeting with the Minister of Status of Women, the honourable Kellie Leitch. Attendees of this meeting included Chair Hogan, Committee member Pam McConnell, FCM 2nd Vice-President Raymond Louie, FCM CEO Brock Carlton and Committee staff support Melissa Newitt. Councillor Pam McConnell (Toronto, ON) provided additional comments on this meeting. Both Chair Hogan and Councillor McConnell reported a positive response from Minister Leitch to the Committee's work, and a commitment from the Minister's staff to work with FCM staff in identifying and developing elements of a potential new partnership. The Chair opened the floor to Committee members to give updates on their own Advocacy Days meetings. Committee members reported positive experiences and support for FCM's Women in Local Government programming from a number of MPs and Senators. Following this discussion, the Actions Items Status Report was approved.

The Chair gave a brief update on the *Head Start for Young Women* program indicating that by the December break all six participating communities will have completed a needs assessment and community consultations to better understand the barriers to young women's participation in local government. Committee members participating in the *Head Start for Young Women* program, Councillor Sylvie Goneau (Gatineau, QC) and Joni Bäechler (London, ON) gave updates on the specific actions being taken in their own communities. Committee members were invited to follow the Twitter hashtag #FCMHeadStart for regular updates on the work of all communities involved in this program.

Chair Erin Hogan then provided an update on the renewal and revitalization of the *Regional Champions* program. Following approval of the Regional Champions Revitalization Strategy at the September Board meeting in St. John's, NL, FCM Staff have begun work to create a comprehensive database of the ongoing initiatives by Regional Champions as well as promote the work being undertaken through FCM channels. Moving forward, FCM Staff will promote, disseminate and provide support on the *Protégé* and *Getting to 30%* tools and resources as a part of this strategy. Discussion of the many actions that Committee members have undertaken as Regional Champions to support the increased participation of women in local government followed.

Vice-Chair Linda Rydholm then outlined the upcoming Campaign School that the Standing Committee will be hosting at the same time as the March Board meeting in Thunder Bay, ON as a part of the Regional Champions program. This event will take place on March 8th - the same day as International Women's Day. Councillor Rydholm will



work with the local group "Women in Politics" to promote the event and to invite women from the region. Members of the Standing Committee were invited to participate in this workshop and to share their personal stories of becoming elected officials. All FCM members attending the March Board meeting will be encouraged to attend this event. It was noted by the Chair that this presents a valuable opportunity for FCM members to experience and replicate a campaign school in their own community. Committee members also noted this event would be a good opportunity to engage Minister Leitch and see first-hand the value of FCM's women's programming.

Vice-Chair Susan Gimse followed this discussion with an update on the recent International Day of the Girl Child celebrations. The Councillor expressed that events marking the day were lower this year than in 2012 and indicated that further discussion of the approach to this event by the Standing Committee would be required. It was moved that this discussion be moved to the March board meeting.

The Chair then asked Councillor Lise Burcher to speak about FCM's role in the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality. FCM currently holds the Vice-Chair position of this international Committee. The Councillor requested that Committee members reflect upon how to best engage with UCLG's work on this issue. It was suggested that sharing FCM's Women in Local Government tools and resources with the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality would be a valuable first step. The Chair then requested that the Standing Committee follow up with a more robust discussion at the March Board meeting.

Councillor Pam McConnell, chair of the Long-term Funding Sub-Committee, provided an update on the SubCommittee's work. Councillor McConnell re-enforced her earlier comments that the meeting with Minister Leitch provided an opening for both the Committee and FCM staff to work with the Minister and her office to develop a longer-term funding partnership. Immediate next steps include FCM staff to continue discussions with the Minister's staff.

In Other Business, the Chair then moved that the Standing Committee charge FCM Staff to investigate and present options for the role of FCM in the issue of bullying in local government councils. After discussion, it was unanimous that FCM staff be charged with this task in concert with other Committees undertaking similar work.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Charge FCM staff to investigate and present options for the role of FCM in the issue of bullying in local government councils in concert with other Committees investigating similar issues.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The meeting began with a welcome from Acting Chair Merven Gruben. The Acting Chair acknowledged the absence of President Elaine Wyatt and expressed his hope that she is able to join the Forum at the next meeting. The Chair also welcomed Vice-Chair Jeannie Ehloak to her first board meeting as NAM's President.

At staff's recommendation, the Forum approved the agenda with one amendment, deferring the update on DFO investments in coastal communities to the next board meeting. The report of the last meeting was then approved. Next, staff provided an update on the Advocacy Days meetings with northern Parliamentarians.

This discussion was followed by a review of the Action Items Status Report. Staff noted that the CRTC has not yet made a decision on its review of Northwestel and the northern subsidy regime, and has also not confirmed when the review of the enhanced basic service objective for telecom services will begin.

The Forum was then provided an update on the status of the proposed Runway End Safety Area regulations. Staff advised that Transport Canada has hired a consultant to conduct a technical risk assessment of various issues related to northern airports, including the need for changes to runway end safety areas. Staff will be monitoring the outcome of this study to ensure the concerns of the Forum are reflected in any final decision on the regulations.

The Forum then requested that FCM staff consider rescheduling the meeting to a time that limits conflicts with other committees. A breakfast meeting was recommended if feasible. Next, there was a discussion on the National Zero Waste Council and concerns that its final recommendations currently under development reflect the realities of northern communities.

Finally, the Chair led a discussion on the potential risks posed by the rapid growth in marine transportation and resource extraction projects in the Arctic. The Forum identified the need for northern-based search and rescue and emergency response capabilities to deal with potential transportation incidents and environmental disasters as of particular importance. The Forum directed staff to conduct a review of these issues and report back at the next meeting. Staff indicated that this review will identify linkages with work currently under development at other FCM committees and apply a northern and remote lens.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for referral to staff:

Defer the update on the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' current level of investments in coastal communities to the March 2014 board meeting;



Review the scheduling of future board meetings to limit conflicts between the Northern and Remote Forum and other committees; and

Provide an update report at the March 2014 meeting on the current and planned programs and policies in place to address the risks posed by the rapid growth in marine transportation and resource extraction projects in the Arctic.

The Forum recommends this report be received.