



March 19, 2014

Chair and Members  
Corporate Services Committee

**RE: Report of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting – Thunder Bay, ON, March 3-8, 2014**

## **OVERVIEW**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Meeting of the Board of Directors took place in Thunder Bay, Ontario from March 3-8, 2014.

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

Below are three underlining issues that were debated and recommended during committee meetings and brought forward to the Board Meeting:

### **1. The New Building Canada Plan**

During a special briefing session on the New Building Canada Plan (NBCP), board and committee members expressed concerns regarding serious gaps that the federal government must address in the design of the NBCP. Members noted that these gaps could have been addressed through more meaningful consultation with municipalities, which the government had pledged to undertake when announcing a commitment to a new 10-year, \$14 billion Building Canada Fund (BCF) and a 2 per cent annual index of the federal gas tax transfer in the 2013 federal budget. Among members' concerns is that, to date, they have received no clear indication that a fair share of the new BCF will be invested in municipal projects.

The new BCF's funding rules further reduce local flexibility by eliminating core infrastructure categories from eligibility such as local roads. Members are also concerned that the NBCP introduced new requirements that could result in unnecessary red tape and cost property taxpayers more money, including a cumbersome "P3 screen" and rules that could force local governments to carry a higher share of project costs. Members are willing to work with other orders of government on these gaps. They believe the first and most important step is for federal, provincial and territorial governments to ensure that at least 70 per cent of the BCF is invested in our cities and communities, ensuring local governments receive a fair and predictable share of this important new program.

The Standing Committee on Municipal Infrastructure and Transportation Policy recommended that FCM focus on the following activities: correcting the public record regarding FCM's position on the new Building Canada Plan; monitoring the implementation of the NBCP to ensure a significant majority of the NBCP investments flow to municipalities; collaborating with provincial and territorial municipal associations to support their discussions with provincial and territorial governments;

begin developing new infrastructure demands for the 2015 federal election; and continue helping members to communicate our position locally.

Following the board meeting, board and committee members were sent a template news release they can use to communicate concerns about the NBCP in their home communities.

## **2. FCM Election Readiness Working Group**

A new Election Readiness Working Group (ERWG) was struck to guide FCM's strategy in preparation for the 2015 federal election. In its inaugural meeting, the ERWG approved terms of reference for its mandate and discussed several themes that will inform a strategy document to be prepared by staff, including: the opportunity for the municipal sector to influence party platforms, the importance of non-partisanship, the importance of starting to prepare immediately, the opportunity to build upon previous FCM campaigns (Cut My Commute, Infrastructure, Housing), and to coordinate all advocacy activities with election readiness campaign objectives.

## **3. Ukraine**

The Standing Committee on International Relations recommended that FCM issue a statement reflecting Canadian municipal support for the democratic struggle in the Ukraine.

## **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2014 AND 2015**

### **Meetings of FCM's Board of Directors**

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 10 – 12, 2015	London, ON
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### **STANDING COMMITTEES AND FORUMS**

FCM's standing committees and forums met to discuss the latest development 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 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Committee chair Michael Thompson welcomed committee to Thunder Bay. The Chair introduced the Vice-Chairs, Councillors Randy Goulden and Albert Beaudry.

Staff provided an update on the Action Items Status Report including an update on the proposed interoperable emergency broadband network. Members pointed to the critical need for municipalities to work together to develop compatible procurement, equipment and network application strategies to ensure technical interoperability capacity among municipal emergency services across Canada.

The committee considered two resolutions: Chronic and Prolific Offenders and Emergency Notification of Tsunamis. The first has been referred back to staff for clarification and updated information.

The committee heard from FCM's Government Relations team with an update on FCM's Election 2015 strategy as well as the recent meeting between FCM president and the Minister of Public Safety where they discussed the development and delivery of a proposed federal disaster mitigation program. The committee agreed that FCM should strike a technical working group of municipal experts to inform FCM's work with Public Safety, to identify common concerns, needs, best practices and practical recommendations for the NDMP and to ensure that any new federal program is adequately resourced and responds to and meets community and municipal needs. A letter will go out from the FCM president to mayors, city managers, regional managers and the like urging them to identify staff to participate in the working group. FCM staff will ensure appropriate and balanced representation from member cities and communities.

Councillors Dave Hodgins and Chris Coleman updated the committee on the activities of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRR). The DRR has developed a community disaster preparedness evaluation tool-kit that has been well received by many communities.

The committee received a report from Councillor Susan Gimse on the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Committee on Community Corrections (JCCC). Councillor Gimse reported that the committee would be receiving a tool-kit from the JCCC for those who are interested in learning more about and getting involved with ex offender reintegration initiatives. Examples of these initiatives include Habitat for Humanity Canada's work to train parolees in the construction of homes.

Staff provided an update on research being undertaken by the committee on the drivers of policing costs and provided feedback including the need to consider the impact of "Shadow Communities" on the cost of policing and other municipal services. The committee heard of examples of mining and other industry work camps that are not incorporated communities but require services, including policing and emergency services which are being provided by nearby communities who aren't being compensated. Staff was directed to raise this issue with other relevant policy departments to understand if the cross cutting issues of Shadow Communities are being addressed.

The committee shared information about the new regulations related to the production of medical marijuana and discussed the need to explore ways to address concerns around the cost of fire services.

The committee provided feedback into and approved the FCM Annual Conference policy forum agenda and revised and approved the policy statement.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Recommendations for adoption:**

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended;

2. Adopt the policy forum agenda, as amended;
3. Staff coordinate a technical committee to inform FCM's engagement with Public Safety Canada on the development of Canada's National Disaster Mitigation Strategy.

**Recommendations for referral to staff:**

4. To facilitate the formation of the technical working group, staff will ensure a letter from the President is sent to mayors, city manager, regional managers of member communities, urging them to identify appropriate staff to participate in the working group.
5. Staff to engage provincial and territorial associations to feed into the consultation process for the federal disaster mitigation program.

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

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee chair Don Downe welcomed committee members to Thunder Bay. The Chair introduced the Vice-Chair, Councillor Sav Dhaliwal.

The committee approved the report from the November 2013 meeting and staff provided an update on the Action Items Status Report – specifically on FCM’s work to monitor the implementation of the Canada-E.U. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) as well as P3s under the new Building Canada Plan.

The committee considered eight resolutions dealing with: amendments to the income tax act, regional Veteran Affairs office closures, exotic animal regulations, derelict and abandoned vessels, sport halibut fishing, and various issues surrounding mail delivery in Canada. Following an involved discussion on the recent changes to door-to-door mail delivery in Canada, the committee endorsed a broader, principled position which aims to establish meaningful consultations as a key metric for Canada Post moving forward. It is also a priority to effectively communicate the frustrations of members with respect to the lack of consultations on these changes to date. The committee also directed staff to provide clear context to resolution sponsors on this issue.

The committee then heard updates from staff on a variety of priority files. First, staff gave an update on FCM’s work to encourage greater collaboration and coordination between all governments toward securing greater foreign direct investment. It was agreed that all opportunities to push this file forward should be taken. Second, the committee heard an update on the future work to be undertaken through the Jack Layton Fellowship.

Third, staff provided an update on the status of the 2014 State of the Cities and Communities Report. It is critical that FCM has as much information leading up to Advocacy Days as is possible. While it was recognized that the updated municipal finance component of the report needs to be irrefutable, there was agreement that having this report out as soon as is possible should be the primary goal. Finally, staff informed the committee of the work FCM has been doing in support of the City of Edmonton’s appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada on a challenge to the City’s use of development charges.

The committee approved the FCM Annual Conference policy forum agenda and policy statement.

## STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended;
2. Adopt the policy forum agenda, as amended;
3. Approve the *Principles for Federal-Municipal Consultations on the Five Point Action Plan*:
  - a. *Meaningful Consultations*: Land-use planning, service delivery and right-of-way management is unique in each city and community across the country. A one-size-fits-all approach will not work for every municipality. Canada Post must work with every municipality individually to ensure meaningful consultation on the location of community mailboxes meets the needs of the community.
  - b. *Partnerships*: Servicing municipal infrastructure is the responsibility of local governments. Yet municipalities must not inherit the mandate maintaining federally-owned community mailboxes without compensation. Either Canada Post must work with the local government to develop agreeable processes to maintain this infrastructure or Canada Post must compensate local governments for this work.

- c. *Congruence with Municipal Planning:* As much as possible, the changes to door-to-door mail delivery must align with local strategies and processes aimed at fostering and supporting age/disability-friendly communities. Unique strategies must be developed in partnership with local governments to ensure local policies are respected.

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

## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

The Committee Chair began by welcoming members to the meeting. The committee adopted the agenda as amended and approved the November 2013 meeting report. The format for the proposed policy forum agenda at the annual conference was discussed and many suggestions were provided as to how to make the forum more engaging and more meaningful for members. Ultimately, it was agreed that regardless of the engagement format pursued for the forum, participating members need to understand the purpose, the desired outcomes and the general context for the policy forum in order to provide a clear framework for member input. Staff then presented new amendments to the policy statement and all agreed that the section dedicated to Principles for Federal Assessment should be incorporated as adopted by the Board and more generic wording needed to be used for the amended sections. Staff will be revising those sections of the policy statement for circulation to the Committee.

During the lunch period, Thomas Hoggarth, from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans presented to the Committee on changes to the Fisheries Act, the new Fisheries Protection Policy and program delivery. Concerns were expressed by Committee members in regards to program reductions, perceived loss of habitat protections and the policy's departure from ecosystem management objectives. Mr. Hoggarth invited the Committee to participate in an upcoming May workshop on the development of guidelines for medium and large water intakes.

Following the lunch period, eight resolutions were adopted as recommended by staff and incorporated into the consent agenda. Three of the resolutions, all related to climate change adaptation and disaster mitigation, were combined and it was agreed that these resolutions would serve as guidance to future members of the proposed FCM technical working group in their input to Public Safety's recently announced National Disaster Mitigation Program.

Staff then provided an update on FCM advocacy work and a progress report on the Committee's 2013-14 policy and advocacy priorities. Next, a series of update and decision reports were provided by staff, beginning with the status and direction of policy research in support of 2015 election readiness. The research direction and approach on the climate change adaptation priority was agreed to be clear and while there was general agreement on the new approach and next steps to the energy/climate change priority, some had concerns over the uncertain outcomes of this research and whether it would provide a clear advocacy position for FCM on this Committee priority. Staff understand this concern and will develop an inventory of areas of federal jurisdiction or potential influence over municipal energy and energy-efficiency policy and will provide thorough analysis with proposed approaches to building a coherent story on the issue in order to ensure the committee's concerns are met and a clear advocacy position emerges.

This was followed by a brief update on BCF program design and then a presentation from the Director of National Programs on the direction that FCM's Green Municipal Fund will be taking in 2015. Finally, a memo on the municipal issue of non-flushable products and the approach being pursued by the Municipal Emergency Sewer Use Group in partnership with the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association to deal with this issue was presented. General support was expressed for the dual approach of these organizations to pursue a standard for flushable products while simultaneously engaging in a national education and awareness campaign.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Recommendations for adoption:**

1. Write a letter to CWWA and MESUG in support of their initiative to develop a standard for the testing and labeling of flushable products; and

2. Continue with efforts to advance solutions to this problem through the National Zero Waste Council; and
3. Communicate to the FCM membership, the CWWA and MESUG initiative to develop a standard for the testing and labeling of flushable products; and
4. Help support a national educational awareness campaign based on the concept of "toilets are not garbage cans" by disseminating educational materials and resources provided by this initiative to the FCM membership; and
5. Direct FCM staff to explore opportunities for collaboration on both our policy research and advocacy work related to climate change adaptation with partner, sponsor and other organizations whose goals are clearly aligned with those of FCM in this area.

**Recommendations for referral to staff:**

6. Amend the policy statement and circulate to committee members for input; and
7. Amend the policy forum agenda and format and circulate to committee members for input;

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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Committee Chair Erin Hogan welcomed everyone to Thunder Bay 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 and invited committee members to introduce themselves.

The committee then approved the agenda, the report from the Ottawa Board Meeting, and its action items. Chair Erin Hogan updated the committee on the work of the sub-committee on long-term funding. At this time, the committee requested that the subcommittee explore funding options beyond Status of Women Canada including unions, private sector and the United Nations. Chair Erin Hogan also gave an update on the scholarship sub-committee work. This year the committee received 50 applications for the Canadian Women in Municipal Government Scholarship and 10 applications for Mayor Andrée Boucher Memorial Scholarship.

Director Susie Gimse updated on International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) and led the committee in a discussion regarding these celebrations. The committee modified and approved a new approach to IDGC which will have FCM staff sharing the IDGC toolkit with sample proclamations to committee members and Regional Champions in June and August annually.

Councillor Linda Rydholm provided an update on the Regional Champions network. The committee then discussed the definition of a Regional Champion as well as possible additional steps in the Regional Champions strategy which intends to renew and revitalize this network. The committee approved a clear definition of a Regional Champion as well as the creation of a Regional Champions Community of Practice to be launched at the Annual Conference in June 2014.

Mayor Debra Button led a discussion looking at the possible synergies between the committee and the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality. The committee requested a detailed briefing on the work of the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality and the role of FCM as Vice-Chair.

Head Start for Young Women Program Coordinator Melissa Newitt, Councillor Joni Baechler and Councillor Sylvie Goneau each gave a brief update on the Head Start for Young Women.

Next, the committee discussed the Policy Forum Agenda for the 2014 Annual Conference in Niagara Falls agreeing that the focus will be on celebrating the achievements of Head Start for Young Women participants as well as the launch of the Regional Champions community of practice. The Ontario Men's Committee gave an update on their fundraising plans for the Annual Conference and requested feedback from the committee. The policy statement was approved and it was noted that the committee would like to consider modifications in the future.

And to wrap up Councillor Linda Rydholm provided an update on the Political Panel and Campaign School that will be taking place in Thunder Bay on March 8th, 2014 with the participation of many committee members.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Recommendations for adoption:**

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended;
2. Approve strategy for IDGC celebrations for 2014:
  - a. FCM staff to distribute the IDGC toolkit with sample proclamations to committee members and Regional Champions in June and August annually;

3. Approve the strategy for the work required to maintain and expand the *Regional Champions Program*:

- a. FCM creates and promotes an online Community of Practice for Regional Champions;
- b. The Standing Committee to officially launch this Community of Practice at the Women's Committee Forum at the Annual General Meeting in June 2014.

## **REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

The meeting began with an introduction by the Chair and approval of the agenda. Following approval of the report of the November 2013 board meeting, staff provided an overview of the action items previously identified by the Forum. Regarding disaster mitigation, a technical committee will be formed by the Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention to support FCM's engagement with Public Safety Canada on the development of Canada's National Disaster Mitigation Strategy. On the issue of rural airport viability, staff reiterated that the issue of additional federal funding for airports will be part of FCM's 2015 election work.

The Forum then reviewed the progress report on the 2013-2014 policy and advocacy priorities. Staff confirmed that the research reports on rural sustainability and rural broadband are now complete, and that FCM's advocacy efforts were successful in securing a new \$305 million broadband investment in Budget 2014.

There was a discussion about the Building Canada Fund and the Small Communities Component. In addition to concerns about program design, members discussed the critical need for investments in capacity building for rural communities.

The Forum approved the 2014 FCM Annual Conference Policy Forum Agenda and Policy Statement.

President Marit presented an emergency resolution on the level of railway service for the shipment of commodities, which was unanimously adopted by the Forum. Mayor Dooley commented that rail backlogs have a major impact on municipal roads and highways due to increased heavy truck traffic, and that addressing the issue may require an increase in rail infrastructure.

Staff then presented the high level findings of the rural sustainability research project, including statistics on employment, economic sectors by GDP, youth outmigration, immigration, and aging, among others. The committee was then provided a briefing on rural broadband, including the recent 700 MHz auction and the upcoming 2500 MHz auction, in preparation for a presentation by the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA) on rural broadband deployments.

The presentation by Kurt Eby from the CWTA and Timo Hiiback from Tbaytel was followed by a question and answer period. President Dobrowolski made closing remarks.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Recommendations for adoption:**

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended;
2. Adopt the policy forum agenda, as amended;

# REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Acting Committee Chair Roger Anderson welcomed everyone to Thunder Bay and invited committee members, observers and staff to introduce themselves. The Committee approved the agenda and the minutes of the November 2013 meeting in Ottawa. The acting chair then presented the new program reporting format to SCIR members and pointed out amendments to the agenda for approval by the committee.

Committee Vice-Chair Garth Frizzell provided an update on the governance task group and brought the completed terms of reference for both the Standing Committee and Governance representatives forward for Committee feedback and final approval. The Tors were approved by the Committee. The new francophone governance representative for the Haiti program, Councillor Brian Pincott and the representative for the Africa programs, Gatineau Councillor Sylvie Goneau were also introduced to the committee.

The Committee continued the process of renewing FCM's current international relations framework with a focus on establishing the key principles that should give the new 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 topic areas: refining the proposed principles, adding to the proposed principles, and the implications of the principles for FCMI's work. The draft framework will be revised and brought forward for one last consultation during the program forum at the Annual Conference in June. The final framework will be brought forward for board approval in September 2014.

The Committee also received a report in response to a concern brought forward by Cllr. Tim Stevenson to SCIR following a decision by DFATD (formerly CIDA) to fund a religious organization that had posted homophobic statements on their web site. This concern led to a broader discussion surrounding the values or principles that FCM is applying in its international work, particularly surrounding partnership opportunities, and the policy process for bringing forward committee concerns surrounding international policy issues. A presentation on amendments to partnering guidelines and the FCM resolutions process took place to clarify the committee's position on issues surrounding diversity, values, and advocacy positions. The report was approved unanimously by the Committee.

In a new segment called stories from the field Governance Representative for Latin America, Councillor Marvin Plett presented on his recent experience with a delegation of Nicaraguan representatives who were visiting western Canada, and UBCM President Rhona Martin presented on her recent association capacity building experience in Vietnam. Acting Chair Roger Anderson provided an update on the situation in Ukraine, the safety of staff, and the status of current and new international programming efforts there. As Governance Representative for Ukraine, Chairman Roger Anderson expressed his recent communications with staff and political officials in the country. Committee members shared their personal and professional investments in the country's democratic struggle.

The committee accepted the presentations and program reports for FCM International's four current international development programs, the Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED), Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development Program (MLED), the Caribbean Local Economic Development Program (CARILED), and the Programme de Cooperation Municipale Haiti (PCM).

Finally, the committee discussed the agenda for the FCM annual general meeting in Niagara Falls in May 2014. The new joint FCM workshop format was introduced to the committee by FCMI Director, Sebastien Hamel. Potential international contributions to the FCM workshops were then discussed by committee members and staff promised to follow up with individual members for status updates on potential workshop contributions. Finally, to address the international overlap of the trade and

development files, a joint task group between the finance and intergovernmental committee (FIG) and the international committee (SCIR) was suggested as a future possibility for more targeted board member collaboration.

**STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

***Emergency recommendations for referral to the Executive Committee:***

1. That FCM release a statement reflecting Canadian municipal support for the democratic struggle in the Ukraine.

## **REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIALECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Councillor Brian Pincott, the committee chair, introduced Vice Chair, Mayor Edgar Rouleau and welcomed the committee to Thunder Bay. The chair and committee sent their thoughts and best wishes to Vice Chair Councillor Pam McConnell.

The committee received the Action Item Status Report and considered five resolutions across a range of issues including the National Day of Health and Fitness, Old Age Security and Recognizing the Year of Reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples. The committee discussed and amended the resolution on Early Intervention Centres for Mental Health and Addiction to reflect the committee's support for adequately resourced and effective strategies that support people living with mental illness.

Government Relations Manager, Shawn Menard, provided the committee with a federal advocacy update. FCM's "Fixing the Housing Crunch Campaign" and Election Preparedness are at the top of our advocacy agenda. Through the Housing Crunch campaign we gained a commitment from the federal government to work with FCM and stakeholders to address social and affordable housing needs. At the same time, the Minister of Social Development has been clear that this government will not reinvest its \$1.7 billion annual funding for social housing operating agreements as they expire over the coming years. The impact of the loss of this investment on social housing and across the housing continuum is the focus of FCM's housing advocacy moving forward and will be elaborated on in a pending FCM research report.

The chair led a discussion about "Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch" and the vital role of the committee and FCM members in bringing this national campaign to the local level. There was consensus within the committee of the need to address not just social housing, but housing accessibility and gaps across the housing spectrum including adequate rental housing, affordable homeownership and the lack of options for seniors in rural communities.

The committee was updated on the National Forum on Housing and the Economy as well as the upcoming Quality of Life Reporting System report on seniors and housing. FCM will work with the committee and the Election Readiness Working Group to launch these initiatives over the next six to eight months in a strategic way that supports our housing and elections agenda.

Senior Policy Advisor, Leanne Holt, updated the committee on the proposed changes to the federal Additions to Reserve policy. While recent consultation between FCM, the Union of BC Municipalities and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development have led to significant improvements in the proposed policy changes, many questions remain and staff has been directed to seek clarification on a number of concerns.

Councillor Ben Henderson provided an update on the Urban Aboriginal Matters working group. The group remains committed to identifying areas of focus for potential action. A workshop in November facilitated by Councillor Paul Harris has brought the group closer to developing a shared mandate and they are currently working to build an agenda for a meeting at the Annual Conference in Niagara. The committee approved the FCM Annual Conference policy forum agenda and policy statement.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### ***Recommendations for adoption:***

1. Adopt the policy statement;
2. Adopt the policy forum agenda;

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

## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Committee Chair Doug Reycraft welcomed members of the committee to Thunder Bay. The Chair then introduced the Vice-Chairs Mayor Janelle Saskiw and President Robert Coulombe.

After approving the agenda and minutes of the November 2013 meeting, the Committee heard an update from staff on the Action Items Status Report. Staff then provided comments on the political environment in Ottawa and the latest intelligence on our advocacy opportunities ahead. Following this update, staff brought the committee up to speed on the activities undertaken to date on the committee's priorities: infrastructure planning, telecommunications policy and rail safety.

CEO Brock Carlton provided an overview of what was committed to municipal infrastructure in Budget 2013 and what has been announced to date on the New Building Canada Plan. The committee considered a series of recommendations on next steps with respect to FCM's infrastructure advocacy. Discussion focused on a number of issues. First, including a public outreach component to FCM's Election Readiness strategy is a critical priority for future policy and advocacy work. Second, arming our members with post-board messaging and tools (such as a template press release) is also important. Third, there remain significantly positive elements of the new BCP including the FCM-delivered GTF with a 2% index. This cannot be ignored in our messaging. Finally, a collaborative approach must be struck with our members and the Provincial/Territorial Municipal Associations to capitalize on any other opportunities to influence the scope of the new BCF.

Staff then provided updates on our rail safety policy and advocacy work over the year. No doubt it has been a busy year for the committee in its leadership of the municipal response to the future of rail safety in our communities. Next, the committee heard from staff on proposed grade crossing regulations from Transport Canada. In response to the Gazetting of these regulations, staff will be working with a technical working group of municipal staff to review the impacts of these regulations and report back to the committee at the next board meeting. The committee then received an update on FCM's ongoing rights-of-way work.

The committee approved the 2014 Annual Conference policy forum agenda and policy statement. Representatives from FCM's Atlantic Caucus then brought forward a recommendation that FCM write to VIA Rail's President and CEO to request a response to earlier correspondence from FCM.

Finally, the committee welcomed Rick Zaporzan from the National Research Council, who provided a detailed presentation on their work to develop an all hazards municipal infrastructure risk management tool. Such a tool will provide a valuable resource for our members to make evidence-based decisions on infrastructure priorities. Additional information on the project will be sent to members following the meeting.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Recommendations for adoption:**

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended;
2. Adopt the policy forum agenda, as amended;
3. Direct staff to provide comments to Transport Canada indicating FCM's support for the proposed Grade Crossings Regulations, and identifying any remaining operational concerns before the close of the 90-day comment period; and
4. Direct staff to monitor the implementation of the Grade Crossings Regulations, in particular cost implications and the efficacy of the blocked crossing provision.

### **5. .. Emergency recommendations for referral to the Executive Committee:**

## **New Building Canada Plan**

### **Set the record straight**

1. Direct staff to prepare a public response to misleading information utilized by the Government of Canada and Opposition Parties with respect to our position on the new Building Canada Plan;

### **Hold the Gov't Accountable**

2. That FCM monitor the rollout and implementation of the NBCP to ensure a significant majority of the New Building Canada Fund investments flow to municipalities and to hold the Government of Canada to account and ensure federal investments are made transparently.

### **Collaborative Response**

3. That FCM collaborate with the Provincial/Territorial Municipal Associations to inform and support their discussions with provinces and territories and promote our key principles on the New Building Canada Plan;

### **Developing the Future Platform**

4. That FCM begin development of a new infrastructure ask for Election 2015 which includes a public engagement plan beginning with a gap analysis of the current plan and places emphasis on municipal collaboration on future program design to deliver the best value for every dollar.

## **6. VIA Rail**

FCM write a follow-up letter to the VIA President and CEO (copying CN and Minister Raitt) requesting a response to our first resolution, especially in light of CN's intentions to abandon rail operations on the 70-kilometre line in New Brunswick mostly used by VIA Rail for passenger service.

## **REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

The meeting began with an introduction by President Ehaloak, followed by approval of the agenda. The report of the November 2013 meeting was then approved.

Staff provided an update on action items previously identified by the Forum. At the request of members, the scheduling of board meetings has been revised to reduce conflicts. On the issue of northern airports, staff explained that Transport Canada is currently conducting a risk-based assessment of the Runway End Safety Area regulations to be completed by the end of 2014. It is anticipated that airports in the territories will continue to be exempt due to economic considerations, but the impact on airports in the provincial north is not yet clear.

The Forum was provided with a detailed update on the 2013-2014 policy and advocacy priorities: northern housing, telecommunications, and northern infrastructure and adaptation. Members reiterated the urgent need for renewed federal investments in social housing, in particular in areas with extensive resource development. While progress has been made on broadband, including a \$305 million commitment in Budget 2014, there remains a need for a long-term comprehensive plan to ensure a minimum level of service for all northerners. Staff participated in a panel discussion on this issue at the 2014 Northern Lights conference. The Forum also discussed the challenges surrounding the program design of the New Building Canada Fund.

Members then discussed changes in the role of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), specifically the closure of a majority of DFO offices in the Northern and Arctic region, the recent changes to the Fisheries Act, and the elimination of DFO's involvement in environmental assessments. Councillor Bidgood explained that these changes are particularly concerning for communities on the Pacific coast given the scale of industrial projects in development in that region.

Staff provided an overview of emergency management and search and rescue capabilities in the North. Members agreed that FCM should provide comments to the Tanker Safety Review Panel's consultation on Arctic Ship-source Spills. The Forum also discussed the critical need for enhanced search and rescue capabilities that respond directly to community needs in the territories and provincial North.

The meeting concluded with approval of the Policy Forum Agenda and Proposed Policy Statement for the 2014 Annual Conference in Niagara Falls, ON.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Recommendations for adoption:**

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended;
2. Adopt the policy forum agenda, as amended; and

#### **Recommendations for referral to staff:**

3. Direct staff to coordinate a submission to the Tanker Safety Expert Panel consultation on Arctic Ship-source Spills, and report back to the Forum on opportunities to advocate for enhanced search and rescue capabilities that respond to community needs.

## REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Annually, an Elections Committee is named to oversee the upcoming election process and to receive nominations for Table Officers positions.

The 2014 Committee met on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> to review FCM's election procedures and timelines.

As defined in FCM by-laws, the following dates are key for the 2014 FCM Elections process:

#### **1 March, 2014**

- Launch of FCM's 2014 election process and campaign period

#### **5-8 March, 2014** (*March 2014 Board Meeting*)

- Meeting of the Elections Committee, March 5

#### **2 April, 2014** (*60 days prior to the FCM 2014 Annual General Meeting*)

- Posting of nominations of Table Officer positions on the FCM Website

#### **11 May, 2014** (*21 days prior to FCM 2014 Annual General Meeting*)

- Deadline for submission of nominations for Table Officer positions

#### **13 May, 2014**

- Deadline for submission of Consent Forms for Board Member positions (to be registered on the list of candidates)

#### **18 May, 2014** (*14 days prior to the FCM 2014 Annual General Meeting*)

- Deadline for Candidates to Withdraw from any Table Officer positions

#### **1 June, 2014**

- FCM 2014 Annual General Meeting - Election of Table Officers
- Provincial Elections for Board Member positions

As part of their mandate, the Committee also agreed to recommend the appointment of the following directors to the position of Election Chair in their respective province or territory:

Yukon	President Elaine Wyatt
Northwest Territories	President Tina Gargan
Nunavut	President Jeannie Ehaloak
British Columbia	President Rhona Martin
Alberta	President Bob Barss
Saskatchewan	Presidents Debra Button and David Marit
Manitoba	President Doug Dobrowolski
Ontario	President Russ Powers
Québec	Président ex-officio Robert Coulombe
New Brunswick	President Bruce MacIntosh
Prince Edward Island	President Bruce MacDougall
Nova Scotia	President Dave Corkum
Newfoundland & Labrador	President Churence Rogers

### STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

#### **Recommendations for adoption:**

1. It is recommended that the individuals listed above be appointed as the Election Chairs in their respective province or territory to the 2014 Elections Committee.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Harold Usher  
Councillor, Ward 12  
FCM Board Member

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Joni Baechler  
Councillor, Ward 5  
FCM Standing Committee Member