



September 16, 2014

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee

RE: Report of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting – Saguenay, Quebec, September 3-6, 2014.

OVERVIEW

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Board of Directors met in Saguenay, Quebec from September 3-6 to debate and direct FCM's 2014-2015 national agenda. At the top of mind for FCM's Board, is seizing upon the opportunity to showcase municipal leadership and advance the municipal sector leading up to the 2015 federal election. Within this context, the Board discussed a range of issues critical to Canada's cities and communities including the future of infrastructure, disaster mitigation, and a way forward for Canada's housing crunch. These issues and more are presented in further detail in the summary of committee reports that follow.

Investing in Canada's hometowns remains one of the best ways to build our country. With every new road, bridge or transit system, we create new jobs and improve the quality of life in our communities. Housing that is affordable for newcomers, young families, the middle class and seniors alike helps build thriving communities and puts money back into our national economy.

Municipal leaders left Saguenay united behind one message that they hope to send to all federal political parties: The solutions necessary to move Canada forward start in our hometowns and we are ready to work together to implement them.

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.

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

Councillor Brian Pincott, Committee Chair welcomed the new and returning committee members and introduced Vice-Chairs, City of Toronto Councillor, Pam McConnell, and Mayor Edgar Rouleau with the Cité de Dorval.

The committee Chair and staff presented an update on the policy and government relations activities undertaken in the weeks following the June Annual Conference including FCM's participation at the Liberal Party caucus retreat in Edmonton, progress on the National Forum on Housing and the Economy and meetings with political staff in the office of the Minister of State for Social Development.

After in-depth discussion about social-economic trends and issues in member communities and cities, the committee affirmed the following as its 2014-2015 policy priorities.

- Housing Affordability;
- Canada's aging population;
- Immigrant settlement; and
- Aboriginal/municipal relations.

The committee approved the recommended 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities of 1) Election Campaign Development and Launch and 2) Platform Development and Launch. The committee further emphasized the critical importance of board and member engagement to the success of FCM's election campaign and meeting the objectives of significantly advancing of our policy priorities.

An extensive list of suggestions and ideas for member engagement was compiled and referred to FCM staff to inform their election engagement strategy.

Mr. Evan Siddall, the recently appointed president of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), was a guest speaker at the committee and spoke about strengthening the relationship between CMHC and FCM, as well as updated the committee on the tools and products that the CMHC is promoting to support the health of Canada's housing system. The committee relayed to Mr. Siddall their deep concerns with expiring federal operating agreements and called on CMHC to recognize and match municipal leadership in delivering affordable housing from the one order of government that, outside of Ontario, is not responsible for housing.

The committee also discussed concerns around recent changes to Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program and referred the issue back to staff for further analysis.

The committee approved the following policy and advocacy priorities:

- Protect and make permanent Canada's \$2.072 billion annual federal affordable housing programs and agreements to preserve rent and operational subsidies where needed and, where current operation agreements are no longer needed, invest expiring agreement funds into new capital repair and regeneration programs.
- Review federal tax policies with the aim of implementing new tax incentives that will remove barriers to new affordable and market rental housing and preserve existing rental housing so we can start to meet the needs of the almost 200,000 Canadian families on waiting lists for affordable housing.
- Work to end homelessness by implementing proven practices like Housing First and provide the supports and affordable housing options that are fundamental to its success.
- Meet the needs of a rapidly aging population through investments in adequate transit, accessible infrastructure and home retrofits to keep seniors engaged in community, in their homes longer and out of more costly institutions that put more strain on our health care system.
- Remove barriers to successful settlement of newcomers with programs and investments including matching skills and education to jobs and creating adequate affordable housing and better public transit that make it easier to get to and from work. Gridlock and rising commute times are felt disproportionately by new Canadians who are twice as likely to use public transit.
- Work with all levels of government to coordinate and provide newcomer services outside of large urban centres and cities, to encourage and support successful immigrant settlement in regions across Canada.

- Promote and support successful capacity building programs like FCM's Municipal/First Nation Community Economic Development Initiative and award winning Community Infrastructure Partnership Program to build stronger economic ties and relationships across governments.
- Increase national focus and support for the economic and social needs of Canada's urban Aboriginal people to advance the country's economic competitiveness over the long term.
- Work with Statistics Canada to address gaps in data and ensure that all municipalities have access to the data they need to make informed policy decisions and better serve their citizens.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Adoption:

1. Adopt the following 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities as identified by Policy and Government Relations:

- Election Campaign Development and Launch;
- Platform Development and Launch; and
- Adopt the Platform Priorities.

2. Direct staff to provide further analysis on the changes to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program.

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

Committee Chair Garth Frizzell welcomed new and returning committee members to Saguenay and introduced Vice-Chairs Councillor Sav Dhaliwal and Councillor Michael Thompson.

The Committee approved the agenda as well as the report from the March 2014 Board meeting. Staff provided a comprehensive update on the Election Readiness 2015 plan, including a policy and advocacy environmental scan. The committee discussed the 2014-15 policy and advocacy priorities: Election Campaign Development and Launch, Platform Development and Launch, and Refreshing the Municipal Fiscal Storyline.

The Committee entered into a significant discussion on the proposed issues and campaign rollout. Key discussion points included:

- Ensuring that the campaign is established in time for the federal election, whether that be Spring or Fall 2015;
- Approaching the Provincial and Territorial Municipal Associations early in the process to ensure that we have buy-in on the campaign objectives and strategies;
- Municipal autonomy continues to be at the heart of FCM's overall storyline and must be considered as a piece of our narrative;
- The campaign must tap into the pride that many Canadians feel for their hometowns. This pride is based on numerous factors and the campaign needs to be as flexible as possible to capture these emotional ties;
- While municipal officials are FCM's chief advocates and champions, every day Canadians should also be seen as vital actors in pressuring federal parties to take action on local priorities;
- The fiscal storyline is a key component of telling our story – getting this story right is critical; and
- Further, the fiscal storyline will help rebut external challengers to our storyline – we must be prepared to deal with such challengers.

Following the discussion on future priorities, staff provided an update on the status of Canada Post's Five Point Action Plan. Numerous questions and concerns were raised, in particular on the nature of Canada Post's consultation with communities. Next, the Committee was provided updates on the status of various international trade and investment issues, including the Canada-E.U. Trade Agreement (CETA), the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Buy America 2.0. On the matter of Buy America, staff was directed to reach out to our municipal counterpart associations in the U.S., to write to Minister Fast requesting a meeting to discuss how the municipal sector can support a coordinated Canadian response to these provisions, and to ensure that the FCM-DFATD Joint Working Group on International Trade considered Buy America as the first issue under its new mandate. The committee also encouraged staff to share FCM's work on this issue with interested and influential stakeholders including the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The terms of reference for the new Joint Working Group were considered and adopted by the committee. The new Joint Working Group will establish a permanent table for FCM to work in partnership with the Government of Canada to inform Canada's international trade and investment strategies. The formal recognition of the municipal role in supporting trade and investment internationally represents a significant move forward for the sector. Beyond trade, the new Joint Working Group sets an important precedent for similar dialogues on other key FCM files.

Staff then explained the current status of the 2015 State of the Cities and Communities Report, which has been postponed due to an unexpected delay in critical finance data from Statistics Canada. Members agreed with staff's recommendation to postpone the report until this data is released, which will hopefully take place before the end of the 2014 calendar year.

The committee received an update on the City of Edmonton's appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada earlier in 2014. FCM submitted an application to appear beside the City on their appeal regarding the use of development charges in Alberta. Unfortunately the SCC ruled against the City and the issue was closed.

Finally, the committee received an outcomes report on the 2014 Jack Layton Fellowship program. The Fellows designed and developed a municipal youth engagement handbook that presents examples, best practices and additional resources for use by members interested in recruiting and retaining the next generation of municipal employees.

Chair Frizzell thanked members for attending the meeting and called the meeting to a close.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Adoption:

1. Adopt the following 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities as identified by Policy and Government Relations:
 - Election Campaign Development and Launch;
 - Platform Development and Launch;
 - Refreshing the Municipal Fiscal Storyline.
2. Direct staff to write to the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors expressing FCM's desire to work together to find a permanent solution to Buy America provisions and how they affect Canadian governments and businesses;
3. Write to Minister Fast and communicate FCM's willingness to work together to support the Government of Canada's and FCM's approach to support free and fair trade and address the local challenges surrounding Buy America provisions;
4. Direct staff to ensure that finding solutions to current and future Buy America provisions are amongst the first issues to be considered by the new FCM-DFATD Joint Working Group on International Trade;
5. Approve the terms of reference for the new FCM-DFATD Joint Working Group on International Trade.
6. Direct staff to continue an ongoing dialogue with senior officials at Statistics Canada on the importance to the municipal sector of an expedited release of Government Financial Statistics annual data for 2008-2009 to 2012-2013; and
7. Direct staff to proceed with the production of the 2015 State of the Cities and Communities Report as soon as possible following the release of essential Government Financial Statistics data by Statistics Canada.

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

Mayor Churence Rogers, President of Municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador and committee Chair welcomed the new and returning committee members and offered the regrets of Vice-Chairs, Councillor Dorothy Hector from Kingston, Ontario and Jacques Demers, Maire de la Municipalité de Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley, Quebec. The committee Chair reviewed the committee mandate and expectations with committee members, adopted the amended agenda and the minutes of the March 2014 Board meeting.

The Chair outlined the key objectives of the meeting and staff presented on the high-level advocacy context for the recommended priorities and provided a brief update on recent advocacy activities. Staff then presented on the very tangible outcomes from the policy forum in Niagara Falls. The committee reviewed the recommended priority policy areas and policy solutions for further development. The main points of discussion were:

- Consider a specific policy solution directed to adaptation retrofits for the individual homeowner;
- Smaller, rural communities are in a particularly vulnerable position when it comes to extreme weather impacts, they simply do not have the resources to recover on their own;
- Need to consider modifying best practice to adapting and innovating quickly, not relying on past success but taking a forward looking approach to risk;
- Increasing internet capacity in rural areas could produce significant GHG reductions through telecommuting, it's an important link between the rural and environment platform pieces, and
- A federal program for scaling up emerging technologies would be very useful.

The committee approved the recommended 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities of 1) Election Campaign Development and Launch and 2) Platform Development and Launch.

Staff presented recommendations to the committee on a strategy for moving forward with the development of new guidelines, standards or regulations under the revised Fisheries Act which were adopted by committee.

Staff presented an update on the Green Municipal Fund and the Partners for Climate Protection Program. A new recommendation for the Board was brought forward by Councillor Jack Heath, Regional Municipality of York and unanimously passed by committee to direct FCM staff to recommend options for increasing the federal investment in the Green Municipal Fund in the near future to meet ongoing demand as well as capacity building and sustainability goals.

Staff provided an update to the committee on revisions made to the policy statement following referral back to staff at the March 2014 Board.

Mayor Scott Pearce, Canton de Gore opened a discussion with the Committee on a resolution from his region related to the regulation of environmentally destructive pleasure boating. The resolution will be brought forward to FCM for consideration.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Adoption:

1. Adopt the following 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities as identified by Policy and Government Relations:

- Election Campaign Development and Launch;
- Platform Development and Launch, as amended;
- Adopt the Platform Priorities (as amended).

2. Direct FCM staff to form an expert advisory group of municipal and/or regional government staff from a cross section of FCM member municipalities focused on Fisheries Act implementation; and

3. Direct FCM staff to collaborate with DFO representatives on a municipal sector communications strategy for Fisheries Act implementation. Emergency Recommendations for Referral to Executive Committee:

4. Direct FCM staff to recommend options for increasing the federal investment in the Green Municipal Fund in the near future to meet ongoing demand as well as capacity building and sustainability goals.

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

Committee Chair Sylvie Goneau welcomed everyone to Saguenay and introduced the committee's new vice-chair Councillor Lorrie Williams of the City of New Westminster, BC. The committee members and observers were then invited to introduce themselves. The committee approved the agenda and the report from the Thunder Bay meeting.

Chair Goneau then identified the six priority areas for 2014-2015:

- Completion and Promotion of Head Start for Young Women Program Tools, Resources and Success Stories
- Scholarships and Awards
- Long-term Program Funding
- Regional Champions
- FCM Platform Development
- International Partnerships on Gender-related Programs

The Chair outlined that the Head Start for Young Women program will be completed this fall and that the tools and resources created by this program will be promoted widely. Vice Chair Williams then outlined the second priority, Scholarships and Awards. With the increased number of applications received this year, Vice Chair Williams will head a subcommittee to develop a new process to evaluate and select the annual recipients. This committee will also consider increases in the amount of funds awarded to each recipient.

Chair Goneau then highlighted the recent success of the Regional Champions Community of Practice. With 60 members and growing, FCM elected officials are able to provide direct support to women candidates through a Closed Facebook discussion group. Currently, the group is focused on mentorship and supporting women candidates for fall municipal elections.

Mayor Debra Button delivered an update on International Partnerships on gender-related programs, specifically focusing on FCM's role at United Cities and Local Government (UCLG). Through participation in UCLG's committees and events, FCM actively contributes to policy development, advocacy, and knowledge sharing around common local government issues including decentralization, development cooperation, and gender equality.

The committee then approved the six priorities for 2014-2015.

The Chair then opened the floor to committee members to share their work as Regional Champions in their own communities to increase women's participation in local government. Many members talked about successful mentorship programs based on the Protégé program. Cities of Edmonton, Toronto and Quebec have each run multiple years of successful and popular mentorship programming for women.

Chair Sylvie Goneau presented the committee with the proposed strategy for the creation of a Terms of Reference to guide the committee's work. The creation of a Terms of Reference would clearly outline the mandate of the Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government, aims, roles and responsibilities for members, meetings and communications and subcommittees or task groups. The committee supported this proposal and charged staff to present a draft to the committee created through consultation with committee members, especially Councillor Pam McConnell. Further, the committee discussed the level of support provided to their work and the disruption caused at the end of every program funding term. Members agreed to request ongoing funding for staff support to the committee.

The committee then moved to a discussion of the FCM 2015 Election Platform. Committee members provided feedback on possible platform pieces that would represent the committee mandate in the broader platform. Members agreed to have further discussion on this matter once the draft Terms of Reference are discussed in November.

To close, Councillor Pam McConnell proposed a motion that was unanimously supported stating that: We, the members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government, express our solidarity and support to our colleagues in the Committee on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC). Our thoughts are with you all as you navigate your troubled waters. We are proud of the work that you have done to promote equal rights for men and women in your local governments and we are proud to call you colleagues and friends. Your courage and

determination inspire us to continue our own work to advance women in local government with even greater focus and commitment. We look forward to continuing our journey together in solidarity.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Adoption:

1. Adopt the following as its 2014-15 priorities:

- Completion and Promotion of Head Start for Young Women Program Tools, Resources and Success Stories
- Scholarships and Awards
- Long-term Program Funding
- Regional Champions
- FCM Platform Development
- International Partnerships on Gender-related Programs

2. Adopt the following actions as an initial component of developing Terms of Reference for this Standing Committee:

a. Charge staff to draft a Terms of Reference for the Committee to review and provide feedback before the November meeting;

Emergency Recommendations for Referral to Executive Committee:

3. Direct staff to undertake an analysis of and make a recommendation on the following request for the Board's consideration:

The Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Local Government asks that FCM provide funding for staff support to this committee.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM

The meeting began with roundtable introductions and the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs for the coming year. President Doug Dobrowolski was acclaimed as Chair, and Vice-President Ray Orb and President Churence Rogers were acclaimed as Vice-Chairs.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2014 meeting, the forum discussed and approved the recommended 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities of 1) Election Campaign Development and Launch and 2) Platform Development and Launch.

The platform solutions for the forum include a solution on rural broadband focused on ensuring the new federal Connecting Canadians program addresses critical needs, and securing an interoperable network for emergency responders in communities of all sizes. Members were also provided with a detailed briefing on key platform solutions discussed at the standing committees, in particular the need for additional long-term, predictable funding for core municipal infrastructure, dedicated funding for wastewater and support for asset management capacity building.

Staff explained that some issues like small airport viability are being addressed through the normal work of the standing committees, in this case through the upcoming Canadian Transportation Act Review. Staff then provided an update on recent developments on the broadband file, including the recent announcement by Xplornet Communications that the company intends to bring 25 Mbps downloads speeds to “100% of the rural population” by 2017. Members agreed that the forum should invite Xplornet representatives to the November meeting to discuss this commitment.

Finally, an update was provided on the National Disaster Mitigation Program and the work of the technical committee supporting FCM’s engagement with Public Safety Canada on this issue.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Adoption:

1. Adopt the following 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities as identified by Policy and Government Relations:
 - Election Campaign Development and Launch;
 - Platform Development and Launch;
 - Adopt the Platform Priorities (as amended);
2. Direct staff to invite Xplornet Communications to present at a future meeting of the Rural Forum to discuss their plan to deliver 25 Mbps service to 100% of rural Canadians by 2017;
3. Support the work of the Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention to secure the dedication of D Block spectrum and the development of a National Interoperable Emergency Broadband Network.

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

Randy Goulden, Committee Chair and Councillor with the City of Yorkton, welcomed new and returning board members including the new Vice Chairs Chris Coleman, Councillor with City of Victoria and Roger Doiron, Mayor of la ville de Richibucto.

The committee Chair and staff presented an update on the policy and government relations activities related to the committee and set the context for a full discussion on the committee's priorities related to FCM's campaign and platform development.

The committee agreed on the need for our platform to emphasize the significant role and impact of mental health on the Economics of Policing and Crime Prevention. The committee further agreed that the platform priorities presented to committee reflect well the key federal-municipal issues impacting communities and cities across the country.

Following a full and healthy discussion the committee adopted the proposed policy and advocacy priorities for 2013-2014 and approved the following priorities: Economics of Policing and Crime Prevention:

- Develop a new way to pay for policing that reflects the changing and increasingly complex nature of crime.
- Break down silos between governments to implement proven crime prevention and early intervention policing models, and to develop evidence-based crime prevention legislation that will help keep people out of the justice system in the first place.
- Fix the gaps in mental health services through government collaboration, shared resources, and implement proven approaches like Housing First and supportive housing that target vulnerable populations.

Disaster Mitigation:

- Build on the federal National Disaster Mitigation Program to ensure the types of infrastructure and emergency systems needed to meet the pressures of climate change and natural and human made disasters.
- Establish standardized risk assessment protocols.
- Build local capacity, especially in smaller communities, by ensuring access to national research and risk assessment tools, databases and best practices.

Emergency Preparedness:

- Reinstate the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP).
- Dedicating the D Block of the 700 MHz broadband spectrum and develop the governance and implementation structure of a national interoperable emergency broadband network.

The Chair and staff provided an update on FCM's Disaster Mitigation Working Group. FCM continues to work with Public Safety Canada to ensure municipal concerns and solutions are incorporated into the recently proposed federal disaster mitigation program. The committee approved the identified areas of municipal priority for a National Disaster Mitigation Program as noted in the recommendations at the end of this report.

Staff provided an update on the Joint Committee on Community Corrections and the Chair called for expressions of interest to sit on the committee. The committee agreed to invite members from across the Board of Directors to fill the 13 positions on the Joint Committee and to hold at least two positions for members for whom corrections is an issue in their region.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Adoption:

1. Adopt the following 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities as identified by Policy and Government Relations:

- Election Campaign Development and Launch;
- Platform Development and Launch;
- Adopt the Platform Priorities (as amended);

2. Adopt the following recommended areas of priority for a National Disaster Mitigation Program:

a. Emergency Preparedness and Response

- b. Infrastructure Mitigation
- c. Inter and Intra-Government Coordination
- d. Building Capacity.

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

Committee Chair Jenelle Saskiw opened the meeting by welcoming new and returning committee members and introducing Vice-Chairs Michelle Morin-Doyle and Allan Hawkins.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2014 meeting, the committee reviewed the proposed infrastructure policy solutions that build upon FCM's 2012 submission to the Long-Term Infrastructure Plan consultations:

- Long-term, dedicated funding for core municipal infrastructure;
- Reduce gridlock and build transit systems that support growth;
- Help communities meet new federal wastewater regulations and improve the environment;
- Support innovative practices and build local capacity; and
- Retain flexibility and improve predictability of existing application-based programs.

Following extensive discussion on the proposed policy solutions, and in particular on the importance of asset management capacity building, the committee approved the recommended 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities of 1) Election Campaign Development and Launch, 2) Platform Development and Launch, and 3) Rail Safety.

The committee was then provided with an update on the status of the New Building Canada Plan and the government's response to outstanding issues.

A detailed update on the work of the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group was then provided by staff and by Mayor Doug Reycraft, Co-Chair of the Working Group. While significant progress has been made over the past year, the August 2014 final report of the Transportation Safety Board into the Lac-Mégantic derailment was highly critical of Transport Canada and will require a fulsome response.

Staff then informed members of a significant development on rights-of-way, after which the committee adopted the recommendation for FCM to seek intervener status in the matter of the City of Hamilton's August 2014 application to the CRTC related to a dispute with Bell Canada. The intervention will be limited to defending long standing principles that are of significant interest to the municipal sector and are consistent with FCM's existing policy positions.

The committee then considered and adopted a recommendation brought forward by Vice-Chair Michelle Morin-Doyle on behalf of the Quebec Caucus requesting that the committee recommend that the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group be maintained and with the support needed to fulfill its mandate.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Adoption:

1. Adopt the following 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities as identified by Policy and Government Relations:

- Election Campaign Development and Launch;
- Platform Development and Launch;
- Rail Safety; and
- Adopt the Platform Priorities (as amended).

2. Approve the recommendation for FCM to seek intervener status before the CRTC in the matter of the City of Hamilton's August 2014 Application, subject to technical direction from the FCM Technical Committee on Telecommunications and Rights-of-Way, with a financial allocation of up to \$20,000 committed from the Rights-of-Way Defense Fund; and

3. That the work of the National Municipal Rail Safety working group continue and be maintained with the necessary resources to carry out its mandate.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Committee Chair Roger Anderson welcomed everyone to Saguenay and introduced the Vice-Chairs, Mayor Debra Button and Councillor Marvin Plett. The Committee then approved the agenda and the minutes from the March 2014 Board of Directors' meeting in Thunder Bay. The Chair put forward a motion to send a letter to Councillor Lise Burcher thanking her for her service to the committee and FCM's international programs.

The Committee received an update from the Chair on FCM's international programs, including the implementation of FCM's Ukraine-Municipal Local Economic Development (MLED) in light of the recent conflict in Ukraine. Committee members also received an update on FCM's newest program, Sustainable and Inclusive Communities in Latin America (CISAL), based in Peru and Colombia. The CISAL program aims to strengthen the capacity of local governments so they can play a leadership role in building more resilient and inclusive communities in areas affected by mining activity.

Vice-Chair, Councillor Marvin Plett, presented the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the committee. The TORs were reviewed by a task group last year and were presented and circulated to the committee in March 2014 and again prior to the meeting in Saguenay. The Committee also discussed opportunities for its members to become involved in FCM's international programs, which will be communicated by email following the Board meeting, and the continued communication of FCM's international work in Canada. FCM staff agreed to circulate a document prepared by the City of Toronto outlining the benefits to the city in participating in FCM's policies and programming work.

The Chair provided an update on FCM's International Relations Framework. He highlighted the work done to date and the process leading up to the November Board meeting, when the framework will be presented for approval. The Committee also discussed their involvement in the implementation of the CISAL program. A governance representative from the committee will be assigned to the CISAL program and will work with a small oversight group to report back to the committee at each Board meeting. The group will include FCM's 1st Vice-President and the Committee Chair, including two to three other committee members.

As part of the FCM's Election Readiness Campaign, the committee discussed the inclusion of FCM's international priorities as part of the election campaign and platform. The main points of discussion were:

Election Platform - International:

- Develop a program to support Canadian municipalities in trade and investment attraction in order to assist businesses to create relationships in strategic and growing markets;
- Expand our current portfolio of capacity building projects to assist local governments in developing countries, with focus on democratic governance, economic prosperity, engagement of private sector, disaster preparedness and response, and environmental sustainability;
- Develop a Public Engagement Program, drawing on FCM's network of 2,000 Canadian municipalities, to make Canadians more aware and engaged in Canada's international activities; and
- Secure a Special Partnership agreement to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of FCM's relationship with the federal government on programming and policy issues related to FCM's international priority areas.

The Committee Chair closed the discussion by emphasizing the importance of FCM's international work to the organization, Canadians, federal government, and partners abroad.

The Committee received reports from Councillor Michael Thompson and Councillor Brian Pincott on their recent missions abroad as part of FCM's Caribbean Local Economic Development (CARILED) and Haiti-Municipal Cooperation Program (MCP). Members appreciated hearing from their colleagues involved in the programs and asked that future meetings include a similar format.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Adoption:

1. Adopt the four main elements listed as the core content of the international section of the election platform; and

2. Direct staff to prepare a letter to Councillor Lise Burcher thanking her for her service as Chair of the Standing Committee on International Relations and in FCM's international programs.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM

Vice-Chair Wayne Potoroka, President of the Yukon Association of Communities, began the meeting by welcoming new and returning members and offered the regrets of the Chair, Jeannie Ehloak, President of Nunavut Association of Municipalities and Vice-Chair Charles Furlong, President of Northwest Territories Association of Communities. The forum adopted the agenda and the minutes from the March 2014 meeting.

Staff presented recommendations for the forum's 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities and the priorities for the 2015 election platform related to northern and remote communities. Specific comments received included: that the strategies and activities should include the linkage to the infrastructure platform, and that policies to support rental housing in the North should provide both low rate financing and funding to developers in order to create a successful business case for new rental projects.

An update was then provided on the New Building Canada Fund, highlighting the main issues for Northern communities: that local governments and territories are being asked to provide upfront funding for project costs, and that the multi-stage approvals process is challenging for Northern communities and the territorial governments alike. FCM staff continues to support the efforts of the territorial municipal associations to resolve these issues, in particular the provision of advance payments to the territories in cases where a need can be demonstrated.

Staff then presented an update on the new Connecting Canadians broadband fund, including the dedicated \$50 million allocation for satellite-dependent communities in Nunavut and Nunavik. Finally, staff presented recommendations to the forum regarding search and rescue in the North. Members agreed that FCM should identify strategic opportunities to advocate for the restoration of federal funding for the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program, and to advance the need for an assessment of federal search and rescue capabilities in the North. The recommendations were unanimously approved.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Adoption:

1. Adopt the following 2014-2015 policy and advocacy priorities as identified by Policy and Government Relations:

- Election Campaign Development and Launch;
- Platform Development and Launch;
- Adopt the Platform Priorities;

2. Endorse the recommendations of the National Roundtable on Arctic Emergency Preparedness that:

a. National authorities should place needs of northern residents at the forefront in policy discussions at the national level, as opposed to focusing exclusively on visitors to the region;

b. The Joint Emergency Preparedness Program should be reinstated to full capacity; and

3. Direct staff to identify opportunities to advance the need for an assessment of federal search and rescue capabilities available in the North, including the feasibility of locating dedicated SAR assets in the Territories.

Respectfully submitted by:

Harold Usher
Councillor, Ward 12
FCM Board Member

Denise Brown
Councillor, Ward 11
FCM Standing Committee Member