



London
CANADA

December 5, 2014

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee

RE: Report of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting – Ottawa, ON, November 18 – 21, 2014

OVERVIEW

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Board of Directors met in Ottawa, from November 18 – 21, to debate and direct FCM's 2014-2015 national agenda. Board members also met with over 140 parliamentarians as part of FCM's annual Advocacy Days.

The role of cities and communities as Canada's engines of national economic prosperity was the focus of these exchanges between municipal and federal officials. With an election next year, municipal leaders conveyed to MPs how strong hometowns make for a strong Canada.

The Board had the opportunity to hear keynote addresses from Finance Minister Joe Oliver, Leader of the Opposition Tom Mulcair and Liberal House Leader Ralph Goodale. FCM senior officials also met with Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau. All agreed that local issues and hometowns are of strategic importance to Canada.

The Board participated in the launch of an unprecedented public engagement campaign bringing attention to hometowns, and the vital contributions local governments make to the quality of life of Canadians. As part of the Hometown Proud campaign, municipal leaders are calling on Canadians to engage in a national conversation about the future of Canada, and how to make hometowns a central theme of the 2015 federation election.

FCM's Board members are urging their council colleagues to support this effort by visiting hometownproud.fcm.ca, joining the campaign and spreading the word about it to people in their hometowns. All participants are encouraged to share stories and photos about their hometowns on the campaign website.

Municipal leaders concluded their meetings in Ottawa with a renewed commitment to making stronger hometowns a central tenet of the 2015 federal election.

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 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Churence Rogers, President of Municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador and committee Chair opened the meeting and introduced Vice-chair Councilor Dorothy Hector from Kingston, Ontario and offered the regrets of Vice-chair Jacques Demers, Maire de la Municipalité de Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley, Quebec. The Chair offered the committee's sincere thank you to Vice-chair Hector for her contributions to the committee. The amended agenda and the minutes of the March 2014 Board meeting were adopted.

FCM staff provided an update on government relations related to the 2015 federal budget, Advocacy Days, the Hometown Proud campaign and election 2015. Discussion centered on wastewater: the fiscal municipal impact of the federal regulations; provincial-level advocacy to ensure the provinces are engaged around a cost-shared program; municipal prioritization of wastewater upgrades to ensure the municipal "skin in the game", and questions around program design and timelines.

In general, the Hometown Proud campaign is being very well received by MPs. The functionality of the hometownproud.fcm.ca microsite needs improvement and Board members urged each other to sign up and to make every effort to make this campaign go viral. Some questions were raised on how to effectively transition from the very positive Hometown Proud message to the very serious policy and financial asks of our election platform.

Action item updates were provided on implementation of the revised Fisheries Act and on FCM program development related to municipal asset management capacity building. The absence from the Action Items report of the September 2014 recommendation to direct FCM staff to recommend options for increasing the federal investment in the Green Municipal Fund was noted and will be corrected.

FCM staff presented the current draft of the Environmentally Sustainable Cities and Communities plank of FCM's 2015 federal election platform. Input from individual committee members included:

- For the greatest impact messaging should include the positive "human" impact i.e. quality of life impact of our policy solutions
- Market test messages and language around policy solutions
- Policy solutions need to be communicated as specific and tangible program solutions that both the public and politicians can clearly understand and relate to as it's easy to make a political commitment to something that isn't clearly defined and solutions need to be tangible for the public to buy-in
- The need to clearly acknowledge the urgency and severity of climate change in our platform and seek that same acknowledgement from the federal parties

Final business included a presentation from Robert Haller, Executive Director of the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) on CWWA priorities and an announcement of the Sustainable Communities Conference (SCC), Feb 10-12 in London, Ontario. Committee members were encouraged to promote the SCC to their networks. A snapshot of FCM's Community Infrastructure Partnership Program was presented to committee and Councilor Heather Deal volunteered to champion the program.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

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

Committee Chair Garth Frizzell opened the meeting by welcoming committee members and introducing Vice-Chair Sav Dhaliwal. He also extended regrets on behalf of Vice-Chair Michael Thompson.

Following roundtable introductions, the Committee approved the agenda as well as the report from the September 2014 Board meeting. Chair Frizzell invited staff to provide a review of objectives and messaging for FCM Advocacy Days, in preparation for upcoming meetings with Parliamentarians. Staff presented the suggested approach for the meetings and highlighted key messages pertaining to the committee's mandate. Staff also provided an update on FCM's government relations activity since the September meeting.

The committee provided feedback on the overall design and approach developed for this year's Advocacy Days. Several members expressed a desire to have meeting teams designed more inclusively, beyond provincial boundaries. Overall, however, feedback on the campaign approach was very positive.

An overview of progress on action items since the committee last met was provided. On the issue of Buy America provisions in the United States, staff shared that FCM met with counterparts at the National League of Cities in October. Though the issue had not been on NLC's radar until the meeting, the organization has begun investigating the potential impact on its members. Members also heard that the FCM-DFATD Joint Working Group on international trade would be announced later in the day. Other ongoing items included Statistics Canada data on Government Financial Statistics, and Canada Post.

A brief update on FCM's election platform readiness was provided by staff. Committee members were presented with an early draft of the platform pieces with relevance to the FIG mandate. Staff reminded members that this was a very early version of the document, and that both polling data and stories would be added over the coming months. Overall feedback was positive and members shared appreciation for the solutions based approach.

Finally, the Chair provided an update on developments since the final text of the Canada-E.U. Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) was announced in late September. Staff then walked committee members through FCM's detailed analysis of the final text, including next steps. Members adopted staff recommendations to pursue additional outreach with DFATD on implementation, progressive enforcement and dispute resolution, in particular related to the Investor-State Dispute Settlement provisions in CETA.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Direct staff to work with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development to develop updated guidance material for municipalities on the implications and administration of the Canada-E.U. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA); and
2. Direct staff to pursue the development of a protocol agreement with the federal government on the enforcement and penalty procedures related to CETA; and
3. Direct staff to seek assurances from the federal government that FCM's principles on progressive enforcement and dispute resolution will be respected in the context of the Investor-State Dispute Settlement provisions in CETA.

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

The Chair welcomed members of the Standing Committee on Social Economic Development to Ottawa and recognized the work of outgoing members of the committee.

As a first order of business, the Report of the September 2014 meeting was amended to clarify objectives within the policy and advocacy priorities set at that meeting. The Report now highlights social and affordable housing as components of Housing Affordability.

National Program's manager of program development, Theo Breeden, provided an update on FCM's Municipal/First Nation Community Economic Development Initiative and Community Infrastructure Partnership Program. These programs build capacity for First Nations and adjacent municipalities to collaborate on community infrastructure and service agreements. The program will develop tools, templates and case studies with a strategic planning focus that will be accessible to all First Nation or municipal staff and elected officials.

An update was provided to Committee on the next Quality of Life Reporting System report on seniors and housing expected to be released in the new year. The launch of the report will include and tools for members to use and promote the findings and recommendations from the report and will help shape FCM's future advocacy work. Members of the Committee stressed the urgency of addressing the municipal challenges of meeting the needs of an aging population in communities across the country, especially in rural and remote communities. The Chair supported and will follow-up on a suggestion that FCM explore opportunities for members to share best practices and initiatives on this issue.

Councillor Ben Henderson provided an update on the Urban Aboriginal Working Group. The Working Group has been meeting over the last two years and will be bringing forward recommendations for next steps and potential action at the FCM Board meeting in March, 2015.

The Committee was given an update on government relations activities this fall which included a number of meetings with political staff of the ministers responsible for housing and homelessness and senior political staff in the Finance Minister's office. The focus of these meetings has been on advocating FCM housing solutions as approved by the Board in September: investing expiring federal operating agreement funding back into social housing and capital repair programs; increase market and affordable rental housing through tax incentives; work to develop a long-term plan to end homelessness.

The Committee has been asked to provide any feedback on the platform draft directly to policy staff via email. A brief round table providing feedback on meetings with Members of Parliament closed the Committee meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM

Forum Chair President Doug Dobrowolski opened the meeting by welcoming forum members and introducing Vice-Chairs President Churence Rogers and Interim President Ray Orb.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the September 2014 meeting, the forum reviewed key messaging for Advocacy Days and provided feedback on their meetings with MPs. Several members suggested that future advocacy teams include board members from multiple regions to help bring different perspectives to MP meetings.

Members were then updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM's leadership and staff in the lead up to the next federal budget and the Forum reviewed FCM's preparations for Federal Election 2015 and the status of FCM's platform development.

Staff then provided an update on FCM's submission to Industry Canada's consultation on the usage of the 3500 MHz spectrum band for both fixed and mobile internet services. A number of concerns were outlined in this submission, including ensuring fixed wireless access providers operating in both "urban" and "rural" areas, as defined by Industry Canada, have access to 3500 MHz spectrum. FCM's recommendations are intended to protect fixed wireless access services in rural communities that are identified as part of "urban" areas, and allow for growth in these services in the future. A number of members also highlighted concerns with the accuracy of Industry Canada's mapping of rural broadband coverage, citing concerns that underserved municipalities would be excluded from the new Connecting Canadians program and other federal funding initiatives.

The forum then welcomed Allison Lenehan, President and CEO of Xplornet Communications Inc., a rural broadband service provider that provides both high-speed wireless and satellite Internet service to rural communities in every province and territory. Mr. Lenehan addressed Xplornet's public commitment to deliver 25 Mbps service to 100% of rural Canadians by 2017 through expanded fixed wireless infrastructure and two new satellites. His presentation was followed by a constructive discussion with forum members on the role of both the public and private sectors in expanding rural broadband services.

FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum recommends this report be received.

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 board members to Ottawa, including Vice Chairs Chris Coleman, Councillor with City of Victoria and Roger Doiron, Mayor of la Ville de Richibucto.

Following roundtable introductions, committee members asked the Chair to include two additional items to the proposed agenda. The Committee amended and adopted the September Report to Board and approved the agenda as amended, including an item on a recent report from the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police on mental health, and an item on murdered and missing Aboriginal women. Following a brief discussion, the Committee approved the report from the September 2014 Board meeting with minor modifications to the French version.

Chair Goulden invited staff to provide a review of objectives and messaging for FCM Advocacy Days, in preparation for upcoming meetings with Parliamentarians. Staff welcomed information and outcomes from the Advocacy Day's meetings with Parliamentarians, particularly on issues relevant to committee's mandate. Staff also provided an update on FCM's government relations activity since the September meeting.

The committee provided feedback on the approach developed for this year's Advocacy Days and logistical issues related to the cancellation of meetings. Overall, however, feedback on the campaign approach, number and distribution of meetings was very positive.

The Chair welcomed questions on the Updates and Action Items Report. Committee members asked for clarification on specific ongoing items including the U.S. Unfunded Status Act, and advocacy efforts on 20 MHz and on the development of a 700 MHz spectrum implementation strategy and action plan. On the issue of contract arbitration for police and public safety officers, the Chair proposed that the committee carve out some time in March 2015 to discuss the issue with PTAs. Committee members referred the matter of setting up a discussion on arbitration back to staff and adopted the report.

A brief update on FCM's election platform development was provided by staff. Committee members were presented with an early draft of the platform pieces with relevance to the CSCP mandate. Staff reminded members that this was an early version of the document, and that the document would evolve over the coming months. Overall feedback was positive and members shared appreciation for the solutions based approach.

Staff presented an updated version of the proposed terms of reference that will inform research and advocacy on the economics of policing in the coming months. Committee members strongly communicated that it is imperative that mental health figure more prominently in the document. Staff agreed to make mental health more prominent in research efforts and committee members received the report.

Chair Goulden provided a brief update on the November 17 meeting of the Joint Committee on Community Corrections. Chair Goulden thanked members who participated in the meeting and shared key points raised during the meeting, including: housing, reintegration challenges, social enterprise, and information received on the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ).

Finally, under other business, committee members heard information on a recent report from the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police on mental health. Councillor Shawn Crossman presented the general scope of the report and agreed to share a copy with members of the committee. Councillor Marie-Eve Brunet brought forward the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, which was referred to staff. The Committee was made aware that a resolution on this issue is forthcoming for consideration at the March board meeting in Burnaby.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for referral to staff:

1. That staff conduct outreach and invite a speaker to present at the March 2015 on the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

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

Committee Chair Jenelle Saskiw opened the meeting by welcoming committee members and introducing Vice-Chair Michelle Morin-Doyle.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the September 2014 meeting, committee members held a debrief on their Advocacy Days meetings and provided both feedback and intelligence gathered during their meetings with MPs. Members agreed that there was positive feedback from MPs from all parties on the Hometown Proud campaign and highlighted the need to continue promoting the campaign to constituents.

Members were then updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM's leadership and staff in the lead up to the next federal budget, as well as FCM's preparations for Federal Election 2015 including the status of FCM's platform development. Staff highlighted their interactions with both the Liberals and NDP on their infrastructure platforms and the Conservatives on dedicated funding for wastewater infrastructure upgrades. An update was also provided on FCM's interactions with Infrastructure Canada on the status of the New Building Canada Fund, and the recent commitment by officials to ensure that the Provincial and Territorial Infrastructure Component-National Regional Projects (PTIC-NRP) ultimately funds a "good balance" of both provincial/territorial and municipal projects.

On rail safety, staff provided an update on the proposed federal grade crossing regulations and the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group's ongoing advocacy around the implementation of emergency assistance response plans for flammable liquids, improved training for first responders and the introduction of a new insurance regime for railways and shippers. Staff also highlighted FCM's work with the Railway Association of Canada on the Proximity Guidelines for land use planning near rail corridors, and encouraged members to promote the Guidelines in their communities.

The Chair and committee members acknowledged Mayor Doug Reycraft's dedication to FCM as past Chair of the standing committee, as well as the outgoing Co-Chair of the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group and the FCM-RAC Proximity Initiative.

The committee was then updated on FCM's progress in preparing a submission to the Canadian Transportation Act (CTA) Review. Members considered and adopted a motion recommending the key issues and general direction that FCM wishes to adopt for the submission due December 30. The committee recommended that FCM focus on issues previously identified as issues of national significance to the municipal sector, with a particular focus on the need for long-term, predictable and dedicated funding for municipal transportation infrastructure, and the obstruction of railway-roadway grade crossings.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Approve the key issues and direction FCM staff have proposed for FCM's initial written submission to the CTA Review, focused on:
 - a. funding for municipal transportation infrastructure;
 - b. the obstruction of railway-roadway grade crossings;
 - c. rail safety and the transportation of dangerous goods by rail;
 - d. rail freight service;
 - e. passenger rail;
 - f. rural airport viability;
 - g. northern and remote airports;
2. Direct staff to provide a report at the March 2015 board meeting on the key themes and recommendations included in the initial submissions to the CTA Review, and identify any policy issues that may warrant a follow-up submission.
3. The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

SUMMARY REPORT THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Committee Chair Roger Anderson welcomed board members and FCM staff to the meeting. The Committee approved the agenda and the minutes from the September 2014 Board of Directors' meeting in Saguenay. The Chair confirmed the appointment of board members as Governance Representatives to FCM's international programs. The Governance Representatives are appointed on a yearly basis with the possibility of being reappointed every year for the duration of the program.

The Committee reviewed the final version of FCM's International Framework, which outlines a set of strategic objectives for FCM's international work from 2015 to 2018. The framework will help us promote relationships between Canadian municipalities and local governments across the world in ways which will ensure maximum learning, synergy and promotion of Canada's interests. The document outlines four strategic objectives, including initiatives, as follows,

- FCM's influence and positioning of the municipal sector in international policies through policy development and advocacy;
- FCM's role in development cooperation and approaches to improve our support to developing and emerging countries;
- FCM's role in trade and investment promotion and initiatives to become more involved in trade and investment attraction; and
- FCM's organizational effectiveness and suggestions to strengthen the international services to our members.

The document was approved by the committee and recommended its adoption by FCM's Board of Directors as part of this report.

The committee received a draft of the international pillar of the FCM's Election Platform. The pillar entitled *Global Municipal Connection*, including solutions on trade, the environment and international cooperation for a stronger Canada. Members also discussed their meetings with Members of Parliament and Senators on Parliament Hill. In addition to FCM's domestic policies, several meetings included discussions on FCM's international programming and initiatives, which were also highlighted during the committee meeting. Finally, the Committee provided recommendations for improving the way international is mainstreamed during advocacy days

The Committee received an update on FCM's new Community Sustainable and Inclusive Communities in Latin America (CISAL) by Cllr Garth Frizzell. The program undertook an assessment mission to British Columbia to meet with Canadian municipal, provincial officials and private sector organizations related to the extractive sector to better understand the Canadian context and the partnership between Canadian municipalities and the extractive sector. An assessment mission was also organized in Columbia and Peru to begin the identification of communities for the program and possible partners, including FCM's counterpart in Peru and Columbia. The program staff will use the information from the assessment missions to prepare the Program Implementation Plan, which will be submitted to the Government of Canada. Comments were provided on the need to involve more closely church organisations to get a better sense of the needs of the most deprived citizens.

Other governance representatives gave brief reports on the projects they are involved in. Brian Pincott provided an update on the Programme de Cooperation Municipale which just FCM adopted its project implementation plan for the next five years. Sylvie Goneau presented the results of her last mission to Mali and Burkina Faso where she participated in national workshops to celebrate the results of the MPED program.

The SCIR also received a presentation from Chair Roger Anderson, Vice-Chair Debra Button, and Carol Kardish on the Municipal Partners for Local Economic Development-Ukraine program, as it comes to a close at the end of December. The presentation highlighted lessons learned and the impact of the program in the two oblasts in the country.

We also gave special recognition to Sebastien Hamel for 15 years of service to FCM and Carol Kardish for her help and guidance through 5 years of the Municipal Local Economic Development (MLED) in Ukraine.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendations for adoption:

1. That the FCM International Relations Framework 2015-18 be adopted to guide FCM's international work for the next three years; and
2. The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

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

Committee Chair Sylvie Goneau (Gatineau, QC) welcomed Committee members to Ottawa and introduced the Committee Vice-Chairs: Councillor Lorrie Williams of New Westminster, BC as well as Councillor Lise Burcher of the City of Guelph, ON who was unable to attend.

The Standing Committee approved the agenda and the report from the Saguenay Meeting. The Chair then briefed the Committee on the recent meeting with the Liberal Women's caucus and the NDP Women's Caucus. Attendees of these meetings included Chair Goneau, Vice-Chair Lorrie Williams, Committee member Pam McConnell and FCM staff, Melissa Newitt. 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 Hometown Proud campaign.

The Committee unanimously support the following motion put forward by motion was: Councillor Harold Usher of the City of London, Ontario

THAT The 25% film which was developed out of the Head Start program in London, aims to encourage more young women to become engaged in municipal and all orders of government. It was produced with goal of being used in classrooms as a teaching resource and discussion piece. Therefore, the Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government encourages all board members to help continue this important national dialogue by sharing the video with their peers, local school board trustees and Ministers of Education."

Following this, Councillor Marie-Eve Brunet raised the subject of the promotion of the tools from the Head Start for Young Women program as well as the ongoing promotion of the scholarships. After discussion of resources and strategy, a unanimous recommendation was referred to staff on effective ways to promote the tools.

Councillor Lorrie Williams then gave a brief update on the wrap up for the *Head Start for Young Women* program. Over the past year, Grand Forks, BC; London, ON; Ottawa, ON; Gatineau, QC; Rigolet, NL and Bathurst, NB participated in this program. Individual Head Start groups have held wrap-up and promotion events. FCM hosted a final wrap-up event to celebrate the work of all Head Start groups during Advocacy Days. Additionally Head Start groups and Board members were asked to promote the final FCM Head Start for Young Women Guidebook and all tools through their own networks. FCM will continue to encourage member municipalities to implement similar outreach programs for young women, or seek other strategies to increase the engagement of young women in their own local government.

Chair Sylvie Goneau led the committee in a robust discussion of the Terms of Reference Work Plan in order to provide staff with feedback to finalize a Terms of Reference for the Committee's review at the March Board meeting as well as inform the recommendations to Executive Committee regarding on-going staff support to the Committee.

In the above noted discussion, Committee members stressed the importance of a mandate that encompassed both program delivery to increase women's participation in local government and reaffirmed the relevance of the role of Committee to FCM overall. The discussion focused on the FCM support available for policy and program activities beyond committee meetings and the annual conference without external program funding. As the mandate of the Committee has evolved over time, the Committee also considered the need for an appropriate focus on policy, program and advocacy activities. Additionally, there was consideration of expanding the Committee's mandate of increasing women's participation to that of all democratically underrepresented groups including young people and racialized people, however concerns were raised of diluting the focus of this committee.

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 most sincere condolences to our colleague, Councillor Lise Burcher at the recent loss of her life partner, former Wellington County warden and Puslinch Township mayor Brad Whitcombe. Our warmest and most uplifting thoughts are with you in this time.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the Terms of Reference Work Plan.

Recommendations for referral to staff:

2. That the scholarship subcommittee and staff collaborate to prepare an efficient and effective plan for the promotion of the tools resulting from the Head Start for Young Women program as well as the ongoing scholarships and awards.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM

Chair, Mayor Jeannie Ehaloak, President of Nunavut Association of Municipalities opened the meeting and introduced Vice-chair Wayne Potoroka, President of the Association of Yukon Communities and Vice-chair Charlie Furlong, President of the Northwest Territories Association of Communities. Following introductions of forum members and staff, the agenda and the report from the September 2014 Board meeting were adopted.

FCM staff provided an update on their government advocacy activities related to the range of priorities relevant to the forum. The discussion arising from the update included:

- Clarification between the water licensing issues in the North and issues related to the federal wastewater regulations;
- FCM's current ask on wastewater and that municipalities who have followed due diligence may be penalized by exclusion to a dedicated wastewater fund, and
- The need for clarification and clear messaging for FCM members in regards to the expiring federal housing operating agreements.

Discussion then moved to a debrief with forum members on the Hometown Proud campaign and Advocacy Days meetings specific to the Northern and Remote Forum. Individual comments included:

- Having a specific ask on housing and Northern specific leave-behind would have helped in some meetings;
- Signing up on the HometownProud microsite should be as simple as providing an email address, would be vastly improved with Google search presence, and the functionality on Apple devices was at times challenging;
- Some federal representatives wanted to know if the HometownProud entries would be searchable by community; and
- Generally, forum members received a very encouraging response from federal representatives.

Staff then provided updates related to: endorsing specific recommendations of the National Roundtable on Arctic Emergency Preparedness; federal search and rescue capabilities in the North, and Transport Canada's Runway End Safety Area risk assessment. Finally, staff presented the election readiness and platform development priorities relevant to the forum.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum recommends this report be received.

Respectfully submitted by:

Harold Usher
Councillor, Ward 12
FCM Board Member