



March 26, 2015

Chair and Members  
Corporate Services Committee

**RE: SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE FCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA,  
MARCH 4-7, 2015**

**SUMMARY**

The FMC Board met in Burnaby, B.C. on March 4 to 7, for what is likely the final Board meeting before the federal election. Board members spent three days developing the FCM election platform, which outlines the solutions that will address the greatest challenges facing the country. Board members were resolved in seeking a firm commitment from all federal parties that they will work with cities and communities to strengthen Canada's economy.

FCM believes that the next federal election must focus on strengthening Canada through strengthening cities and communities. Hometowns are where Canadians live, work and raise their families – they drive our economy and contribute to a strong Canada.

It was recognized during policy committee discussions that infrastructure, affordable housing and sustainable communities are essential for the economy and the quality of life of Canadians. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to working with the federal government and all parties to advance solutions to strengthen Canada through its cities and communities.

## **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**

The Committee Chair, Churence Rogers, President of Municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador, began by welcoming members to the meeting and introducing his new vice-chairs, Mayor Malcolm Eaton, Humboldt, Saskatchewan, and Maire Scott Pearce, Canton de Gore, Quebec. New members of the Committee were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. The committee then adopted the agenda as amended and approved the November 2014 meeting report.

FCM staff provided an update on standing committee policy and advocacy priorities. The Committee also received an update on the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) that included details of the new program offer and preliminary efforts to explore options for ensuring the financial sustainability of GMF. A recommended approach to improve consultation with local governments in federal environmental-assessment processes was presented and discussed. Broad support was expressed by the committee for the recommended approach. Details of the National Disaster Mitigation Program and changes to the monetary threshold of the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement were also presented.

Six resolutions were adopted as recommended by staff. Three resolutions, all related to encouraging the Government of Canada to negotiate binding international GHG emissions reductions targets, were combined and recommended by committee to the Board to go to the Annual Conference.

The committee's Policy Statement was adopted as presented to the committee, and there was general agreement with the proposed agenda and format for the policy forum at the annual conference. Councillor Paul Harris, Red Deer, Alberta, was nominated and appointed to the Sustainable Communities Awards judging panel and Councillor Harold Usher, London, Ontario, provided an update on the very successful FCM Sustainable Communities Conference that took place this February in London.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the policy statement, as presented;
2. Direct FCM staff to write a letter to the ministers of the Environment and Natural Resources requesting that the Government of Canada direct the National Energy Board review panel, presiding over the Trans Mountain Pipeline Environmental Assessment process, to reinstate the full public-hearing process, including oral testimony and cross-examination of witnesses and requesting that this process be restored for all NEB hearings; and
3. Direct FCM staff to engage the Government of Canada for the purposes of exploring the most appropriate mechanism to improve consultation with municipal governments in federal environmental assessment processes.

The Standing Committee recommended 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 November 2014 Board meeting. Chair Frizzell invited staff to provide a report on progress since the committee last met. Staff shared an update on FCM's pre-election and pre-budget advocacy activities, as well as a high-level survey of the changing political and economic landscape – and how it may impact FCM's strategy in the coming months. Staff also provided information on FCM's recent polling activity, as well as efforts to gather support from other stakeholders and outreach to all election parties.

The committee also received an update from staff on the policy priorities that were set by the committee in September 2014. This included refreshing FCM's municipal storyline, the DFATD-FCM Joint Working Group on International Trade, and payments in lieu of taxes (PILTs).

On the proposed update to FCM's municipal storyline, staff explained that while high-level data was released in November 2014, more detailed information and the ability to compare trends across the three orders of government will not be possible until the next release, scheduled for November 2015. In the interim, staff shared a summary of research conducted by Professor Enid Slack from the University of Toronto using the available high-level data. Her analysis showed that the municipal share of tax revenues increased from eight to ten percent between 2008 and 2012. This split, which at first glance may seem contrary to FCM's advocacy narrative, can be explained by the reduction of the federal share during the same period. Because this important nuance could be overlooked by other stakeholder associations working with the same data, committee members suggested that FCM staff act quickly, in consultation with Prof. Slack and other experts, to prepare new messaging that will tell the whole story. It was agreed that committee members would be consulted on the new messaging before it is used publicly.

Committee members were then updated on the Dispute Advisory Panel's findings on the valuation of the Citadel lands in Halifax Regional Municipality and FCM's response to the recommendation. Members stressed the need to continue monitoring the federal government's response to the recommendation to better advocate for improvements to the federal PILT program.

Staff then provided an update on the DFATD-FCM Joint Working Group on International Trade, which was officially announced on November 19, 2014. The staff-level component of the working group first met on February 23, 2015 and discussed the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), Buy America legislation, as well as the municipal role within Canada's Global Markets Action Plan (GMAP). The initiatives identified for further development range from policy support to practical support for municipalities seeking to attract investment and take better advantage of international-trade opportunities.

A brief update on the Jack Layton Fellowship program was provided to the committee. The municipal youth engagement handbook, produced by the 2014 cohort of fellows, is set to be released on March 15, 2015. A recruitment process to select the 2015 cohort is underway, and it has been decided that this year's fellows will participate in FCM's pre-election readiness activities, as well as the youth component of the upcoming annual conference in June.

Committee members then reviewed proposed changes to the FIG Policy Statement. These changes were proposed to better reflect current policy and advocacy priorities. After approving the policy statement, staff members outlined a new format for policy forums at this year's Annual Conference in Edmonton.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the policy statement, as presented.

The Standing Committee recommended this report be received.

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

Committee Chair, Councillor Brian Pincott introduced Vice Chair, Councillor Pam McConnell, expressed the regrets of Vice Chair M. Maire Edgar Rouleau, de Cité de Dorval and welcomed committee members to Burnaby.

FCM staff delivered the Progress Report on Policy and Advocacy Priorities. Among other issues, the committee heard that FCM polling from December 2014 shows that housing affordability is an important issue in rural and urban communities across Canada. This and other polling data provide a strong and united message for our membership that we will take to the political parties as part of our election advocacy.

The Progress Report also included an update on FCM's Community Infrastructure and Partnership Program (CIPP) and Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI). FCM met with Minister Valcourt, as well as with Aboriginal Affairs' opposition critics, during Advocacy Days in November and recently contacted Minister Valcourt in writing to highlight the success of CIPP and CEDI. In February, FCM coordinated a presentation to the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples by CEDI participant partners Chief Fred Sam of Nak'adzi First Nation and Mayor Rob McDougall of Fort St. James. Going forward, FCM will continue to look for opportunities to continue to raise the profile of these programs.

The committee discussed, and provided further direction on, FCM's election advocacy regarding housing policies, including how federal programs are delivered; the need for long-term federal commitments to programs like Housing First; concerns with provincial delivery of funding for housing; and addressing the gaps in homelessness funding for municipalities that don't qualify for current federal programs.

FCM staff provided an update on the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The committee heard that the 10 largest Designated Communities will have to use 65% of the funding on Housing First programming beginning April 1, 2015, and that all remaining communities will have to use 40% of their funding for Housing First by April 1, 2016. The committee also heard that rent supplements were extended as an eligible expense for another four years, based on feedback the federal government received from FCM and many municipalities. Concerns remain that Housing First diverts resources from other successful approaches; FCM will continue to share these concerns with HPS.

The committee considered three resolutions, which were all deemed to be areas of federal or provincial jurisdiction and are recommended to the Board as Category B – not within municipal jurisdiction.

Staff presented background research on the legal and policy context for urban Aboriginal people in Canada that highlighted that municipalities provide a range of social services to growing urban Aboriginal populations in the absence of federal government involvement. The committee then heard a presentation by Councillors Paul Harris and Ben Henderson on the work of the Aboriginal Matters Working Group. The presentation focused on the desire of elected municipal officials to build inclusive communities that provided "community, activity, wellness, home, relationships and leadership."

Committee members expressed strong support and appreciation for the work of Working Group. There was unanimous support for further outreach to Aboriginal leaders by the working group to discuss opportunities for collaboration and to better understand how FCM's work and vision for more welcoming communities may align with the work of those groups.

The committee moved to endorse the work of the Urban Aboriginal Matters Working Group and called for the Working Group to bring an action plan for future work on Aboriginal issues to the September Board meeting, including a recommendation regarding the potential for a formal SED sub-committee to oversee the committee's work. The Working Group will meet to discuss and set the parameters for next steps at the 2015 Annual Conference.

The committee adopted the policy statement as presented.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Approve the recommendation that Urban Aboriginal Matters Working Group develop and implement a plan to engage Aboriginal leaders and organizations to explore opportunities for collaboration and alignment to address urban Aboriginal issues.
2. Direct staff to develop, for the September Board meeting, an action plan to advance FCM's advocacy and policy work on urban Aboriginal issues, including a recommendation regarding the need for an SED sub-committee to oversee the committee's work.
3. Adopt the policy statement as presented.

The Standing Committee recommended 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 Burnaby and introduced the Committee Vice-Chairs: Councillor Lorrie Williams of New Westminster, BC, and Councillor Irene Dawson from the Town of Cornwall, PE as well as the interim FCM staff support person, Karen Miller. The Chair expressed gratitude to former staff Melissa Newitt for her excellent work for the Committee, and wished her well in her new endeavors. Each Committee member introduced themselves through a round table.

The Standing Committee approved the agenda and the report from the Ottawa Meeting. The Chair then briefed the Committee on the Head Start for Young Women program, which wrapped up successfully in September 2014. The Committee were presented with an initial copy of the Head Start for Young Women guidebook, which will be publicly launched March 8th through a press release on International Women's Day. The Chair pointed out that many of the Head Start Groups continue to meet beyond the program, showing the motivation and ownership that they have taken to support each other and continue learning.

Following this, Councillor Lorrie Williams gave an update on the applications to the scholarship program. Several Committee members expressed disappointment at the low uptake on the scholarships, and the promotion plan was discussed. The Chair and Co-Chairs presented proposed steps to increase promotion, including timely distribution of a promotional package to Committee Members, as well as the FCM board as a whole. The Committee passed a motion asking FCM staff to bring a robust plan to the September Committee meeting and present the financials of the program, including an explanation of the various prizes. Also, staff was asked to investigate the level of effort that would be involved in reaching out to school boards across the country. In September, the full program will be presented, including goals and updated strategy and process.

Next, Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell provided an update on the Committee's strategy to secure long-term funding. She outlined the work of this Sub-Committee, which has been looking at this issue with the federal government. The current proposal with Status of Women Canada – Diverse Voices for Change – would provide three years of program funding, and the recommendation of the Sub-Committee is to accept this while continuing to build the foundation for long-term funding. Staff support for the Committee's work will be provided through a combination of program funding and FCM membership dues under the updated Terms of Reference of the Committee.

Councillor Irene Dawson presented an update on the Regional Champions Strategy which has been operational for two years. Committee members were encouraged to join in the conversation on the Facebook group and encourage others to engage as well. The Chair noted that it was inspiring to see the support offered through conversations on the Facebook group during the elections.

Debra Button, President of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, provided an update on the gender-equality work that FCM conducts internationally. Several programs were explained, including MLED in Ukraine, and programming on Women and Local Economic Development in Mali. Accomplishments include the development of policy briefs on gender equality and gender studies undertaken by FCM partners internationally. Much work has been undertaken on the international stage to promote gender equality at the local level, and FCM has been actively involved in these discussions.

Staff outlined how the Committee's work and programming is woven into FCM's advocacy work. We see an extremely competitive political environment leading up to the federal election. FCM has been having conversations with each of the federal parties to discuss our platform priorities for the year ahead. In terms of advocacy on our Women's Programming, this largely took place during Advocacy Days, when representatives of the Committee met with both the Liberal and NDP Women's Caucuses.

Chair Sylvie Goneau asked the Committee to express any questions or comments on the proposed Terms of Reference. None were raised, and the committee approved a motion to adopt the Terms of Reference as presented. There was a round of applause amongst Committee members recognizing how much has been accomplished, and how far the Committee has come.

A discussion on approaches to the Policy Forum at FCM's Annual Conference was led by Chair Sylvie Goneau. Many ideas for content were presented, including: the challenges faced by women who have children while in office; how to support women candidates; issues faced by women at different life stages and situations; supporting women who stand for re-election; and the role of men in helping to get more women elected. Two ways to approach the discussion were brought forward: café -style roundtable discussions and the panel approach. Overall, a desire for celebration, dialogue, sharing of resources and stories, and drawing on the Edmonton protégés were expressed as suggestions for the Policy Forum at the Annual Conference.

Finally, the Committee approved a motion to approve the policy statement as presented. There was discussion that the goal of at least 30% representation is a good one – and that once that is achieved, the goal will shift to 50% representation.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the Terms of Reference, as presented
2. Adopt the policy statement, as presented

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

3. Staff prepare a full report on the scholarship program for the September Board meeting. This will include: program goals, finances and a robust action plan for enhanced scholarship promotion with clear actions, responsibilities, timelines and an evaluation process.

The Standing Committee recommended 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 Churence Rogers and Ray Orb.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the November 2014 meeting, staff outlined the federal government's new National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program. Forum members shared their insights on how provincial and territorial governments may respond to DFAA formula changes and provided feedback on FCM's response. The Forum emphasized the need to continue discussions with Public Safety Canada regarding federal funding for disaster recovery and mitigation and the need for consultation with municipalities on future NDMP and DFAA program changes.

The Forum was then updated on FCM leadership's advocacy efforts in the lead-up to the next federal budget. Forum members also reviewed FCM's preparations for federal election 2015 and the status of FCM's platform development, including rural-specific issues incorporated into FCM's election strategy. Members discussed ways they could champion FCM's election platform in their communities and ensure that rural issues are considered by all federal parties.

Forum members then discussed the Governance Working Group's proposed changes to the Executive Committee membership. Members expressed concern about maintaining a strong rural voice on FCM's Executive Committee and stressed the need to further strengthen rural representation within FCM. The Forum submitted two emergency recommendations to the Executive Committee on this issue.

The Rural Forum then discussed their interactions with their federal counterparts on pre-budget consultations. Members highlighted that infrastructure funding and rural broadband service remain important priorities. The Forum was also updated on the federal government's progress on enhancing broadband service in rural areas. In particular, staff outlined Industry Canada's response to FCM's concerns regarding proposed changes to the 3500 MHz spectrum band and their December 2014 proposal that will better maintain existing rural broadband service.

Forum members then reviewed proposed changes to the Forum's Policy Statement that better reflect current policy and advocacy priorities. After approving the policy statement, staff members outlined a new format for policy forums at this year's Annual Conference in Edmonton.

### **FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended

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

2. Recommend that the Board direct the Governance Working Group to consider an appropriate mechanism for ensuring that the PTA representative on the Executive Committee is a member of the Rural Forum; and
3. Request that the Executive Committee task the Governance Working Group with bringing forward a report and recommendations with respect to the rural representation in the FCM.  
The Forum recommended 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 Burnaby, including Vice Chairs Chris Coleman, Councillor with City of Victoria and Roger Doiron, Mayor of la Ville de Richibucto.

Following roundtable introductions, committee members approved the agenda as amended and adopted the November 2014 Report to Board as presented. The Chair invited staff to present an update on FCM's pre-election and pre-budget advocacy activities, as well as a survey of the changing political and economic landscape, and how it may impact the work of the committee. Staff also provided information on FCM's recent polling activity, as well as efforts to gather support from other stakeholders and outreach to all election parties.

A brief update on FCM's election-platform development since November 2014 was provided. The committee heard that the community-safety and crime-prevention, or "Safe Cities and Communities" plank of the platform will include solutions geared toward addressing funding pressures from federal policing downloads, embracing new and innovative models for crime prevention, recognizing the need for inter-governmental collaboration on mental health and addiction issues, as well as avenues to enhance the ability of communities to respond to both natural and man-made disasters. Staff also updated the committee on the new approach that will inform the policy forums during the 2015 FCM Annual Conference.

Committee members welcomed guest speaker Jeffrey Copenace, who presented on the issue of murdered and missing Aboriginal women. Mr. Copenace shared his professional history on the issue, beginning with a key role in the negotiations that led to the Kelowna Accord, and most recently as Deputy Chief of Staff to Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-Chut Atleo. He shared a number of new initiatives that have been introduced to better track and respond to the disappearance of Aboriginal girls and women. Mr. Copenace then shared his own personal story following the disappearance of his niece Maisy Odjick in 2008. He thanked committee members for the invitation to speak, and highlighted important role municipal governments can play by collaborating with other levels of government and First Nations communities, and increasing awareness of this endemic crisis that touches all Canadians. Finally, Mr. Copenace encouraged committee members to support the resolution before them, asking FCM to support a national public inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

The committee subsequently engaged in a brief discussion on the question of contract arbitration for public-safety officials. The committee heard from PTA executive directors about the evolving situation in Ontario, as well as the innovative approach the province of Manitoba has developed to include municipal governments in the RCMP contract-negotiation process between the provincial and federal governments. Members shared that this issue is creating financial pressures across the country, and agreed that the matter should be discussed on an ongoing basis between PTA executive directors. There was also a brief discussion on alternative sources of financing that could help alleviate financial pressures resulting from high salaries for public-safety officials, such as proceeds of crime legislation.

Staff then presented an update on the Updates and Action Items Report, as well as progress on the committee's policy priorities. The committee received a report on the federal government's new National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program. Following this report, staff shared the results of the research on the economics of policing, for which the terms of reference were adopted by the committee in November 2014. Ultimately, the committee heard that while the results of the research were limited, the report provided helpful advice for FCM's consideration. Following a presentation on a potential new way forward, committee members approved new approaches to federal funding for policing, crime prevention and mental health.

The Committee considered two resolutions, one in support of a national public inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls, and another related to the availability of RCMP resources, both of which were recommended as Category A-concurrent. Committee members unanimously supported to refer the resolution on missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls to FCM's 2015 Annual Conference.

Committee members then reviewed and approved proposed changes to the Standing Committee's Policy Statement, in order to update old information and to better reflect FCM's current policy and advocacy priorities.

Finally, the committee heard a report from members on the Joint Committee on Community Corrections on the March 3 meeting held in Burnaby.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the policy statement, as presented;
2. Approve the solutions proposed for federal funding of policing, crime prevention and mental health to be included in the 2015 pre-election platform; and
3. Direct staff to undertake a consultation with a small, regionally representative group of members that includes both rural and urban municipalities, in order to gather information on the financial impact of officer secondments to federal policing initiatives, as well as other areas where local governments are undertaking work on federal policing priorities; and
4. Direct staff to monitor the outcome of CACP resolution #04-2014 aimed at advancing the Strategic Directions of the Canadian Mental Health Strategy, including the creation of a Standing Committee for Collaboration on Mental Health Issues, and liaise with the organization to explore avenues of collaboration.

The Standing Committee recommended this report be received.

## **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-Chairs Michelle Morin-Doyle and David Price.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the November 2014 meeting, members were updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff in the lead-up to the next federal budget, and the Committee reviewed FCM's preparations for federal election 2015 and the status of FCM's platform development.

An update was also provided on FCM's interactions with Infrastructure Canada and provincial/territorial municipal associations on the status of the New Building Canada Fund to ensure that a significant share of Provincial and Territorial Infrastructure – National Regional Projects (PTIC-NRP) announcements are for municipal projects, and that these announcements roll out in a timely fashion. Committee members expressed concern about the progress with project announcements at the provincial level and encouraged FCM to continue working with its provincial and territorial counterparts as a key advocacy priority.

On rail safety, Committee Chair Jenelle Saskiw and FCM staff provided an update on the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group's February 24th meeting in Ottawa and its ongoing advocacy for 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. Working Group members also encouraged FCM member municipalities to register for information on dangerous goods transported through their communities under Transport Canada's Protective Direction 32. Staff outlined key elements of the federal government's Bill C-52 that respond directly to concerns raised by the Working Group related to insurance and liability, information sharing and Transport Canada's oversight of federal railways. The Chair also updated committee members on the FCM/RAC Proximity Initiative's ongoing work to reduce misunderstanding arising from railway-community proximity issues and to promote the *Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations*.

Committee members were then updated on the status of FCM's intervention in the City of Hamilton's August 2014 application to the CRTC and approved the use of the Rights-of-Way Legal Defense fund for two additional interventions before CRTC and the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Committee considered five resolutions: one on the Building Canada Fund eligibility criteria and four on a number of issues related to rail safety and the transportation of dangerous goods. The final four have been deferred back to staff for further research and analysis.

Committee members then reviewed proposed changes to the Standing Committee's Policy Statement that better reflect the Forum's current policy and advocacy priorities. After approving the policy statement, staff members outlined a new format for policy forums at this year's Annual Conference in Edmonton.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the policy statement, as presented; and
2. Approve the recommendation that FCM file an intervention with the CRTC in response to the February 2015 application by telecommunications carriers requesting that the City of Calgary be instructed to use the Model Municipal Access Agreement as a starting point for negotiations; and
3. Approve the recommendation that FCM request intervener status before the Supreme Court of Canada in the matter of *Rogers v. Châteauguay*, with a financial allocation of up to \$30,000 committed from the Rights-of-Way Defense Fund.

The Standing Committee recommended this report be received.

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

Committee Chair Roger Anderson welcomed members and introduced the vice-chairs. The members approved the agenda and the minutes from the November 2015 Board of Directors' meeting in Ottawa.

The Chair announced the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) and FCM to ensure greater collaboration between the Government and Canadian municipalities on matters related to international development. A letter of appreciation was sent to the Minister of International Cooperation and La Francophonie following the signing of the agreement.

The Committee was presented with the first year's work plan of FCM's International Relations Framework, which outlines a set of strategic objectives for 2015 to 2018. In 2015, FCM will focus on engagement in international municipal networks, including the promotion of local governments in multilateral agreements, advancing development cooperation through programs, fostering its understanding in trade and development, and supporting the engagement of Canadian municipalities and experts in its programs.

The FCM International Governance Representatives presented innovative approaches and recent activities from their programs. These included presentations from Cllr. Brian Pincott for the Haiti-Municipal Cooperation Program (MCP), Cllr. Harold Usher for the Caribbean Local Economic Development (CARILED) program, and Cllr. Marvin Plett and Cllr. Sylvie Goneau from the Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED) program.

The Committee also received a report on the gender-equality work realized through the Municipal Local Economic Development program in Ukraine by Mayor Debra Button. Chair Roger Anderson shared some of the challenges faced by FCM with the approval of the contribution agreement for the new Program for Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance in Ukraine. The Committee requested that a letter be sent to the Minister of International Cooperation and La Francophonie outlining FCM's concerns and to request that the agreement be signed based on the understanding of FCM in December 2014.

Cllr. Garth Frizzell, FCM's Governance Representative for the Community Sustainable and Inclusive Communities in Latin America (CISAL) provided an update and shared the expected outcomes of the program. He also highlighted the types of mining practices being implemented in selected communities and encouraged members of the committee to promote the program in their municipalities and networks. Calls for expression of interests will be distributed through social media, FCM's website and FCM News, and by email in late spring and early summer.

The Committee received a presentation from representatives from Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Centre for Community Sustainable Development on a joint collaboration between the university and FCM's MPED program in Bolivia. Through this collaboration, FCM and SFU organized a diploma program in community economic development for municipal staff in the FCM partner municipalities of Padilla, Tiquipaya and Cliza, and with the regional association of AMDECO in Bolivia. The MPED program also hosted SFU interns in its demonstrations projects and through AMDECO.

The SCIR also received a presentation from Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell on FCM's work with the United Cities and Local Governments, the global organization of local and regional government, and the City of Toronto's involvement in the organization. The presentation highlighted the opportunities networks provide for city-to-city collaboration.

Councillor Paul Pirri provided an update on FCM's activities during the Government of Canada's International Development Week (IDW). In addition to various social media and local events, FCM recognized ten municipal experts for their contributions to its international programs. One of these individuals will be selected for the Mike Badham Award, to be presented at FCM's Annual Conference, along with two institutional awards. Also during IDW, FCM, in collaboration with the City of Montreal and the Union des municipalités du Québec, organized an event in Montreal to recognize their contribution to development cooperation through the MCP in Haiti.

Finally, Cllr. Marvin Plett shared the outline for the international program at the conference. FCM will receive at least two international delegations, including from the CARILED and CISAL programs. In addition to attending various conference events, international partners will also participate in a side program to better inform them of FCM's work, including the Green Municipal Fund and gender equality. FCM International will also organize a workshop on democratic governance and has sent a letter of invitation to the Minister of International Cooperation and La Francophonie to participate in the various events.

**STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

***Recommendations for adoption:***

1. Direct FCM to write a letter to the Minister of International Cooperation and La Francophonie requesting that the Government of Canada sign the contribution agreement of the Program on Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance (PLEDDG) in Ukraine as communicated to FCM in December 2014 and to not reduce the approved six-year budget for PLEDDG.

The Standing Committee recommended this report be received.

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

Chair Jeannie Ehaloak, President of Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM), introduced the two Vice Chairs, Wayne Potoroka, President of the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC), and Charlie Furlong, President of the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC), and FCM staff.

FCM staff presented an update on the Forum's 2014-15 Advocacy and Policy Priorities. FCM met with Minister Aglukkaq at Advocacy Days in November. FCM also recently reached out to Minister Valcourt to express concerns about the Auditor General's report highlighting serious problems with the Nutrition North Canada program and the high cost of living in the North.

The Forum heard an update on the policy research and program development that has taken place in support of FCM's 2015 federal election platform and Northern and Remote Forum priorities, including municipal renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate change adaptation and social housing capital repair and regeneration.

The Forum received the Updates and Action Items report, which highlighted:

- In December 2014, Industry Canada announced a new approach to 3,500 MHz spectrum allocation;
- Staff continued to monitor developments with the new \$305-million Connecting Canadians rural broadband fund;
- FCM continues to make the case that a broader strategy and level of investment is required to build asset-management capacity in local communities. Staff have been assisting INFC with the planning of a national roundtable on asset management in March 2015; and
- Staff continue to maintain contact with Transport Canada on the Runway End Safety Area (RESA) risk assessment.

Members commented that the cost and quality of Internet connectivity remains a big concern, especially in Nunavut. The Forum heard that connectivity is a matter of northern sovereignty, economic development, cultural preservation, accessing government services, safety, and search-and-rescue capability. Members suggested that the Department of National Defence could partner in bringing modern connectivity to the North. It was further suggested that the federal government may want to consider a special levy on resource development in the North as a means of financing infrastructure, including broadband. NAM reported that it is pursuing a connectivity plan and will bring its broadband plan to the Forum at the Annual Conference in Edmonton. The Forum received an update on the federal government's new National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) program. Members raised concerns about the potential impacts of reduced DFAA funding on northern municipalities, along with rising private-insurance premiums as the federal government seeks to transfer liability to the private insurance market.

The Forum heard that the three northern territorial associations are working together to develop a Tri-territorial Strategy. One outcome has been increased cooperation in sharing program administration best practices. NAM Executive Director Madeline d'Argencourt reported that Minister Aglukkaq conducted budget consultations in Nunavut in early January, and that Liberal leader Justin Trudeau held a northern roundtable.

The Forum heard from NWTAC Executive Director Sarah Brown that the association ran a successful campaign in the region promoting HometownProud. Members support FCM continuing to use HometownProud as an ongoing advocacy campaign, and suggest keeping the site up as a tool that promotes Canadian and community tourism.

Members raised concerns that the government is bringing in numerous tax credits while ignoring the progressively eroding Northern Residents Tax Deduction.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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

The Forum recommended this report be received.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Harold Usher  
Councillor, Ward 12  
FCM Board Member

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Maureen Cassidy  
Councillor, Ward 5  
FCM Standing Committee Member