



15 March 2016

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee

**RE: Report of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting –
Sherbrooke, QC, March 1- 4, 2016**

SUMMARY

The FCM Board of Directors met in Sherbrooke, QC, from March 1-4. Board members spent four days addressing vital national issues playing out at the local level during Regional Caucus meetings, Standing Committee and Forum meetings, two Committee of the Whole meetings and the Board meeting. The details of those discussions are presented in the Committee reports that follow.

This meeting was ideally timed to redouble the Board's efforts in advance of the 2016 federal budget, scheduled for March 22. Those efforts were central to the week's discussions. Board members addressed how the federal budget is a vital opportunity to achieve meaningful action on the government's community-focused agenda—specifically it's promised investments in transit, social and green infrastructure—and how such investments have the potential to be transformative for municipalities. Board members were given a series of tools to help them reach out to local media, local MPs and other community stakeholders in the lead up to Budget Day. The purpose of this outreach is to reinforce FCM's narrative that municipal leaders are vital partners for the federal government, and reinforce the central role municipalities play in addressing national challenges. At Rural Forum, Board members tabled *A Thriving Rural Canada*, the rural companion piece to FCM's budget plan, *Rising to the Moment*. The document outlines the specific opportunities and challenges in rural communities, and calls on the government to ensure that promised federal infrastructure investments benefit Rural Canada.

Board members reviewed the progress that FCM has made over the past year in delivering results for members. As evidence of these results, during the meeting Prime Minister Trudeau announced that FCM was being selected to deliver a \$75-million investment to reduce emissions and build climate resiliency at the local level. Looking ahead, Board members approved FCM's corporate plan and budget for 2016-2017. President Louie expressed optimism that these steps would build on the significant momentum the organization has achieved. Board members also recommended that FCM establish a National Municipal Energy Infrastructure Task Force, which will put together a report on municipal priorities and principles relating to federal energy infrastructure. The report will be delivered through the Standing Committee on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development at the September Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Harold Usher
Councillor, Ward 12
FCM Board Member

Maureen Cassidy
Councillor, Ward 5
FCM Standing Committee Member

Jared Zaifman
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FCM Standing Committee Member

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The Chair opened the meeting by introducing Vice-Chair Pam McConnell, offering regrets from Vice-Chair Edgar Rouleau and welcoming new members to the Committee.

The Committee received an update from Government Relations Advisor Megan Stanley on FCM's efforts to advocate for affordable housing in advance of the upcoming federal budget. Megan summarized meetings with key federal government decision makers, including Minister Duclos, Minister Sohi and Canadian Housing and Mortgage (CMHC) CEO Evan Siddall since the November Board meeting. The Committee heard that FCM's 2016 pre- budget submission includes calls for the immediate reinvestment of expiring federal social housing operating agreements, \$1.3 billion in new funding for social housing capital repair and shovel-ready new construction in each of the next two years from the Social Infrastructure Fund, as well as a commitment to work with FCM on the development of a long-term national housing strategy that addresses municipal housing priorities.

In the Update on Committee Activities and Action Items Status report, delivered by Policy Officer Matt Gemmel, the Committee heard that FCM is working closely with the federal government through FCM Refugee Resettlement Task Force to support municipal efforts in resettling 25,000 newly arrived Syrian refugees, and that the final report of the Quality of Life Reporting System (QOLRS) will be released in April and will provide a snapshot of five social, economic and environmental indicators in QOLRS communities.

The Committee received a report from Vice-Chair Pam McConnell on the November meeting of FCM's Urban Aboriginal Working Group. In November the Working Group received updates on activities underway to improve relationships with Aboriginal residents in six municipalities. The Working Group also received a presentation from Marc Maracle, Chair of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, who explained that the coalition has a strong working relationship with the City of Ottawa that has resulted in improved services for Aboriginal people. The Committee then considered a recommendation on adopting four priority areas – housing and homelessness, Urban Aboriginal Strategy, public safety and crime prevention and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action – in order to advance urban Aboriginal policy with the federal government.

Matt Gemmel then presented a memo outlining emerging municipal concerns with the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) program. Based on feedback from FCM Board members and consultation with municipal staff, FCM has identified six areas in which HPS could be improved. The Committee considered a recommendation to base future advocacy on these six areas:

- Expanding the list of designated communities;
- Broadening eligibility criteria for Housing First funding;
- Streamlining reporting requirements;
- Ensuring that emergency support services such as shelters and drop-in centres continue to receive federal funding;
- Eliminating the requirement to spend annual allocation within a given fiscal year, especially for capital projects; and
- Addressing the need for long-term funding for social housing to ensure the success of the Housing First model.

Finally, the Committee reviewed and approved changes to the Policy Statement reflecting new positions that FCM has taken over the past year.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Approve four priority areas – housing and homelessness, Urban Aboriginal Strategy, public safety and crime prevention and Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action – in order to advance urban Aboriginal policy with the federal government; and that this decision be forwarded to the Urban Aboriginal Working Group for further consideration.
2. Approve ongoing advocacy with the federal government on the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) based on the feedback received from members.
3. Adopt the policy statement as amended.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Sav Dhaliwal opened the meeting by welcoming Committee members and introducing Vice-Chairs Bev Esslinger and Brian Pincott.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the November 2015 meeting, members were updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff in the lead up to the next federal budget. Staff then outlined progress on key policy areas of interest to the Committee, including international trade and investment attraction, infrastructure financing and Canada Post.

Committee members were updated on FCM's request for intervener status in *City of Windsor v. Canadian Transit Company*, which has important implications for municipalities across Canada. Staff outlined their approach to FCM's intervention and their consultations with other municipalities.

Staff then provided an update on the GAC-FCM Joint Working Group on International Trade. The Joint Working Group met on January 12, 2016 to discuss issues of common interest, including the implementation of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the new government's trade-related priorities. The Committee also discussed municipal implications from the recently signed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

The Committee was also updated on the federal government's response to the FCM Tax Committee's concerns with recent changes related to GST/HST rebate claim periods. Members also discussed the Tax Committee's concerns related to the application of the GST exemption to transit fares and T2 Corporate Tax Returns for municipalities.

On the proposed update to FCM's municipal storyline, staff explained that, while high-level data was released in November 2014, more detailed information has been further delayed by Statistics Canada until April 2016. In the interim, FCM met with Statistics Canada to express their concerns with the publication delay and prepared a detailed outline of the Municipal Finance Primer. FCM staff committed to sharing a draft of the document when detailed data is released in April 2016.

Committee members considered one resolution on a National Pharmacare Program, which was first presented at the September 2015 Board meeting. As this issue is of widespread interest to FCM members, the Committee recommended that this resolution be adopted and forwarded to the 2016 Annual Conference.

Committee members then reviewed proposed changes to the Standing Committee's Policy Statement. These changes were proposed to better reflect current policy and advocacy priorities. Staff also committed to further refining the Policy Statement in the coming year to better align it with the Committee's ongoing advocacy work.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the policy statement, as presented.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Vice-Chair Paul Pirri welcomed the members of the Committee on behalf of the Chair sent Pauline Quinlan who sent her regrets that she was unable to join the Board this March.

Staff provided an update on Committee-related government relations and federal budget advocacy work undertaken since the Committee met in November. The Committee heard about activities and actions to advance FCM policy priorities and solutions to influence the first federal budget of the new government and staff's work to meet FCM's strategic objectives of reaching out to the almost 200 newly elected MPs to introduce FCM to them.

The Committee was provided a policy update that included a discussion about the federal government's January 2016 announcement of five interim principles to guide federal environmental assessment (EA) processes for EAs that are currently underway. The principles relate to how the government applies its discretionary decision-making authorities for projects being assessed during the federal review and environmental assessment processes. The principles include a commitment to seek out and consider the views of the public and affected communities, which is consistent with FCM's principles for federal assessment processes. Committee members expressed concerns that these new principles would mean undue delays in existing pipeline applications and staff agreed to raise that concern with federal officials and to clarify the impact of the new processes on existing assessments.

FCM Manager of Policy and Research, Alana Lavoie, provided an update on Public Safety Canada's (PSC) consultation on a national approach to a residential flood insurance market. Committee members reiterated the importance of monitoring risk for municipal and homeowner liability in a national floodplain mapping initiative and urged FCM to continue to advocate for resources and investments to address potential needs coming out of PSC's work.

Five resolutions were brought to the Committee for consideration. A resolution calling on the federal government to include improved oiled wildlife response capacity as part of standard response activities was referred back to staff, to seek additional clarifications on the interactions between federal and provincial/territorial marine and land-based spill response regimes. There was also discussion on a resolution that calls on FCM to support the National Zero Waste Council's food waste reduction federal tax incentive proposal and urge the Government of Canada to implement tax incentives for food producers, suppliers and retailers to donate unsold edible food. There was discussion of the extensive body of research available on this proposed tax incentive. This item was referred back to staff to allow for additional analysis of the proposed tax incentives, and the likely impact on municipalities.

During the Committee, an embargoed federal funding announcement was made public. President Louie informed the Committee that, as the EISD Committee convened in Sherbrooke, the Prime Minister, at the Globe Conference in Vancouver, was announcing a new \$75 million dedicated to new climate change programming that will provide a suite of grants to support studies, plans and pilot projects to enable better planning, analysis and decision-making related to municipal capital investments. These initiatives will be complemented by capacity-building initiatives such as peer learning groups, case studies, workshops, conferences and webinars.

Councillor Ben Henderson and GMF Chair provided an update on the activities and results coming out of the Fund, reporting on the success of this year's Sustainable Communities Conference which included significant participation of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and the approval of \$5.1 million in grants for the fiscal year including \$1M for the Local Asset Management Program cohort. Devin Causely, Manager, Climate Change Program reported to the Committee on the Partnerships in Climate Protection 2015 National Measures Report which delivers a snapshot of trends, projects, and programs that are driving local climate action.

Finally, the Committee was asked to consider the federal assessment process of the National Energy Board as it relates to the deep concerns arising from the differing positions on the Energy East pipeline project. The FCM Board has developed and approved three major principles regarding the federal review of resource development projects, articulating the need to ensure municipal concerns and interests are considered in the assessment process governed by the Federal Environmental Assessment Act. Staff were directed to provide a detailed economic, environmental and legislative analysis of the issue in a report to be submitted to the Executive before the September meeting of the Board of Directors.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Direct staff to produce a detailed report analyzing the economic, environmental and legislative issues around pipelines and the federal assessment process.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Forum Chair President Ray Orb opened the meeting by introducing new forum members and Vice-Chairs Al Kemmere and Scott Pearce.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the November 2015 meeting, Senior Manager, Policy and Research, Daniel Rubinstein updated members on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff in the lead up to the next federal budget and the publication of *A Thriving Rural Canada: Rising to the Moment in Federal Budget 2016*. Policy Officer Marc LeBlanc and Senior Policy Advisor Andrée Chenard then outlined progress on key policy areas of interest to the Forum, including rural broadband, rail safety, the Canada Transportation Act Review and the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program.

The Forum received an update on rural-specific programming at the annual conference. Forum members discussed potential workshop content for a rural-specific programming stream and the rural forum session at the 2016 Annual Conference, along with a rural-specific plenary session at the 2017 Annual Conference. Members emphasised the need to integrate rural issues and perspectives into orientation and workshop programming. The Forum also provided feedback to better communicate rural issues to conference delegates and the media and to build a collaborative partnership with the Big City Mayors' Caucus. These initiatives were welcomed by members and the Forum's ad-hoc advisory group established in November will continue to advise FCM staff as they move forward with this work.

Marc LeBlanc updated the Forum on FCM's participation in the CRTC's Review of Basic Telecommunications Services. Staff outlined FCM's supplementary submission to the Review and preparations for the CRTC's public hearing, scheduled for April 2016.

The Forum considered one resolution on rural post office closures. Given the lack of clarity on the government's review of Canada Post and the necessary near-term advocacy work, the resolution has been deferred back to staff for further research and analysis.

Forum members then reviewed proposed changes to the Forum's Policy Statement that better reflect current policy and advocacy priorities. In particular, proposed changes have clarified FCM's support for the Canadian Postal Service Charter and the moratorium on rural post office closures. Amendments were made to better reflect FCM's position on the Small Communities Fund. Staff also committed to further refining the Policy Statement in the coming year to better align it with the Forum's ongoing advocacy work.

The Forum discussed the need to better engage the federal government on municipal perspectives related to the environmental assessment process for pipelines. Forum members recommended the establishment of a new working group to further explore this issue.

FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended. The Forum recommends this report be received.

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Randy Goulden opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee to Ottawa and introducing the Vice-Chairs, Roger Doiron, mayor of la Ville de Richibucto, and Marie-Eve Brunet, councillor from the Ville de Montréal.

Following approval of the amended agenda, the Committee agreed to amend the report of the November 2015 meeting to add Toronto City Councillor Shelley Carroll to the list of attendees. Members also received an update on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff in the lead up to the 2016 federal budget.

Leanne Holt, Senior Manager for Outreach and Engagement, reviewed the federal budget submission components related to the Committee's mandate, and delivered an update on FCM's advocacy efforts to advance budget priorities with the Government of Canada. Committee members heard that, heading up to Budget 2016, FCM leadership and staff have held several meetings with senior officials and the Minister of Public Safety to discuss, among other issues, the need to reinstate the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program, address the growing mental health crisis that local police are dealing with and the review of changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements to prevent unfair burden being placed on municipal resources during recovery from disaster.

Andrée Chenard, Senior Advisor, Policy and Research, outlined progress on key policy areas of interest to the Committee, including ongoing efforts on the economics of policing, mental health, the Public Safety Broadband Network, rail safety and the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program. The Committee also received an update on the federal court challenge of Canada's Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR).

Due to the various municipal policy implications that could arise as a result of the federal government's move to legalize marijuana, Committee members directed staff to develop a set of principles for FCM to help guide municipal advocacy on this important issue. Councillor Adrienne Carr, on behalf of the BC Caucus, brought forward points for consideration in the analysis and development of principles, including the need for FCM to have a seat at the table in developing the new legislation, the need for standards for driving under the influence of marijuana, and the possibility of municipal revenue generating models.

The Committee welcomed staff's initiative to undertake a legal and policy analysis of the changes to RCMP Labour Relations, and the outreach and coordination that has been undertaken with PTA partners. Some members highlighted the risks increased labour costs could pose for both small and large communities with RCMP contracts, as well as the possibility that these changes could jeopardize existing relationships between the RCMP and the communities they work with.

The Committee considered six resolutions on topics ranging from rail safety and the transportation of dangerous goods, to medical marijuana derivatives, usurious interest rates, and the downloading of DNA analysis costs to local governments. In addition to these resolutions, the Committee was informed that a resolution on Rape Culture in Canada had been forwarded to FCM by UBCM, but had been classified as 'For Information Only' due to the wording of the resolved clause. Staff explained that, when resolutions are classified as such, they are not included in FCM's Board documentation, translated, or analyzed. Members agreed that this resolution should be analyzed by staff and brought back to the Committee for consideration at the September Board meeting.

Members then reviewed and discussed proposed changes to the Committee's policy statement, which are intended to better reflect current policy and advocacy priorities. Members of the Committee who sit on the Joint Committee on Community Corrections (JCCC) requested that a slight modification be included to the wording of the statement as a result of new information received through that forum. Staff also committed to further refining the policy statement in the coming year to better align it with the Committee's ongoing advocacy work.

Patrice Allard, Co-Chair of the National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention spoke to the Committee on the Network's latest project and opportunities for closer collaboration with FCM members. Members were very supportive of the idea of finding new channels through which the two groups could advance shared priorities.

Finally, Chair Goulden provided a report on the JCCC and thanked CSCP members who sit on the Committee for participating in the last meeting, which took place in Sherbrooke on Monday, February 29.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Direct staff to develop a set of principles to help guide FCM's policy and advocacy work on the federal government's efforts to legalize marijuana;
2. Adopt the policy statement, as presented.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Jenelle Saskiw opened the meeting by welcoming Committee members and introducing Vice-Chairs Bob Long and David Price.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the November 2015 meeting, Proximity Initiative Project Manager Cynthia Lulham provided a presentation on the Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations. Committee members discussed how municipalities can better consider safety, noise and vibration issues in rail corridors and work with railways on addressing these issues. The Committee also highlighted the work of Operation Lifesaver, an initiative to raise awareness on crossing safety and trespassing in railway corridors.

Members were updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff in the lead up to the next federal budget, particularly on the need for flexibility in the delivery model for new and existing infrastructure programs. Senior Manager, Policy and Research, Daniel Rubinstein and Policy Officer Marc LeBlanc then outlined progress on key policy areas of interest to the Committee, including infrastructure, rail safety, the Canada Transportation Act Review and telecommunications. An update was also provided on the January 2016 release and key findings of the 2016 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card.

Committee members were updated on progress made to refine FCM's position on the federal role in supporting asset management capacity building at the local level, recognizing the needs and challenges in communities of all sizes. An update was also provided on the status of FCM's intervention in the City of Hamilton's August 2014 application to the CRTC. Since the last Board meeting, the CRTC released a decision in the dispute with positive implications for municipalities. The decision will allow for work on an update to the FCM Rights-of-Way Handbook.

The Committee then reviewed and approved changes to the FCM-RAC Proximity Initiative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The updates reflect changes to the Proximity Initiative's mandate and framework, as well as the roles and responsibilities of both accountable parties since the MOU was adopted in 2009. The Committee recommended that FCM liaise with provincial-territorial municipal associations to provide strategic support on promoting the adoption of the Proximity Guidelines at the provincial level.

The Committee considered eight resolutions: one emergency resolution on infrastructure and seven received from FCM member municipalities. The emergency resolution reaffirms FCM's pre-budget advocacy work on the design and implementation of new and existing infrastructure programs and integrates many of the issues identified in resolutions brought forward from the membership. The Committee recommended that the Board adopt the emergency resolution on infrastructure as well as a resolution on federal port operations, and refer two other resolutions to staff for further analysis.

Committee members then reviewed proposed changes to the Committee's policy statement intended to better reflect current policy and advocacy priorities. Staff also committed to further refining the policy statement in the coming year to better align it with the Committee's ongoing advocacy work.

The Committee adopted an emergency recommendation on the establishment of a working group to examine municipal perspectives and issues related to the development of pipelines.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the policy statement, as presented; and
2. Approve the February 2016 update to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Railway Association of Canada.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Vice-Chair Wayne Potoroka opened the meeting by sending regrets from the Chair, Charles Furlong, and welcoming Vice-Chair Jeannie Ehaloak, who called into the meeting from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut.

Daniel Rubinstein, Senior Manager, Policy and Research, presented a draft of the northern and remote companion piece to FCM's 2016 pre-budget submission. The document highlights the priorities that the Forum has identified over the previous year in areas such as infrastructure, housing, cost of living, climate resiliency and community safety. The Forum reviewed the document and suggested improvements to the infrastructure and economic development, housing and climate resiliency sections. The document will be released in advance of the federal budget.

Policy Officer Matt Gemmel presented an update on activities since the November 2015 meeting. The Forum heard that FCM is moving forward on emergency management and disaster mitigation by participating in consultations led by Public Safety Canada on the design and roll-out of the Public Safety Broadband Network, and on the development of a private residential flood insurance market. FCM has also met with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett on proposed improvements to the Northern Residency Tax Deduction and the Nutrition North program. On housing, the Forum heard that FCM is advocating for the immediate reinvestment of expiring federal social housing operating agreements, significant investments in capital repair and new construction, including energy efficiency retrofits, and the development of a Northern Affordable Housing Strategy.

The Forum noted that mental health and the tragic epidemic of youth suicide remains a serious concern in northern and remote communities and asked staff to track the federal government's commitments on improving mental health services in the North and report back to the Forum.

Policy Officer Marc LeBlanc presented an update to the Forum on FCM's participation in the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)'s review of basic telecommunications services. In February 2016, FCM President Raymond Louie wrote to the new Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Navdeep Bains, to outline FCM's submission to the CRTC and encourage the government to continue investments in high-speed broadband coverage in communities across Canada. FCM will continue to engage the federal government, and external partners such as the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, to make progress on this issue.

The Forum was also informed of a request from the Society for Rural Physicians to present to the Rural Forum at a future meeting. Given interest in this proposal, staff was asked to coordinate this appearance and invite members of both the Rural Forum and the Northern and Remote Forum to the discussion.

The Forum reviewed and approved changes to the policy statement meant to ensure consistency with the policy and advocacy priorities adopted by the Forum in the past year. Changes to the statement were made in consultation with the three northern territorial associations.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the policy statement as presented. The Forum recommends this report be received.

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Standing Committee Chair Chris Fonseca, Regional Councillor, Region of Peel, ON, welcomed Committee members, observers and staff to the meeting, and made specific reference to Quebec's new proposed bill to allow elected officials longer parental leave.

Following approval of the agenda and the report from the November 2015 Board meeting, Vice-Chair Irene Dawson reported that since January several meetings have occurred between Status of Women Canada and FCM. One meeting included Minister Patty Hajdu, Status of Women Canada's senior staff and FCM's President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government. Councillor Fonseca shared her insight that Minister Hajdu prioritizes inclusion and social justice in advancing women and girls' rights. Other meetings included discussion on a new call for proposals from Status of Women Canada that came out in late February.

Next Vice-Chair Barbara Dawson reported that the Committee had received the highest number of applications for scholarships and awards since 2014. 69 applications were received and 20% were Francophone applicants. The sub-Committee was thanked for the ongoing work and winners would be determined by the end of March. Councillor Fonseca asked Francophone members to join the sub-Committee to review the French applications. Councillor Marie-Eve Brunet and Councillor Roger Doiron volunteered. FCM staff and Committee were thanked for their hard efforts in increasing the number of scholarship and award applications.

Then FCM 3rd Vice-President Sylvie Goneau provided an update on the Committee's priority of international partnerships and gender related programs.

Following this, Councillor Fonseca provided an update that selected municipalities for Diverse Voices for Change would be publicly announced on March 8th through a press release on International Women's Day. The 4 confirmed municipalities are the City of Edmonton, the City of London, the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and the City of Halifax. The participation of the City of Montreal as the 5th municipality would be confirmed in the following week.

FCM Program Officer Mai Ngo updated the Committee on Diverse Voices for Change. An advisory group with academics, elected officials, city staff and community members had been established. She shared that FCM's Report on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Decision Making and City for All Women Initiative's Advancing Equity and Inclusion: A Guide for Municipalities would be the two documents that Diverse Voices for Change would base its baseline data. Councillor Adrienne Carr wanted to know why some provinces were doing better in gender parity than others and Mayor Lisa Holmes inquired about how FCM's statistics on women in municipal politics was gathered. Members were encouraged to read the documents as they contained relevant research findings and recommendations.

Alana Lavoie from FCM's policy and government relations department shared her presentation on FCM's approach to responding to Councillor Jeff Coffman's motion regarding the Canada Revenue Agency and the need for a child care tax credit for qualifying candidates who campaign in municipal elections. It was recommended that the Committee not pursue the Canada Revenue Agency as this issue was not considered a federal matter. All reports on Committee Activities and Action Items Status were approved.

Finally, the Committee approved a motion to approve the policy statement with the changes presented. There was discussion on whether Status of Women Canada's informal goal of 40% by 2020 should be incorporated into the policy statement. It was agreed that the policy statement would be revisited at September's Board meeting. Staff was directed to send out the policy statement to Committee members so that changes could be solicited prior to September.

Under other business the Committee discussed Councillor Stacy Tyer's recommendation to expand the Ann MacLean Award to current elected officials, Mayor Lisa Holmes' recommendation to find a way for FCM to work with provinces on gathering standardized data, and Councillor Darren Hill and Councillor Marie-Eve's recommendation to integrate an intersectional approach into the Committee's mandate of getting to 30%. The Committee agreed to take these points to September's Board meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the Policy Statement, as presented.

Recommendations for referral to staff:

2. That the Sub-Committee on Scholarships and Awards assess the Ann MacLean Award and whether it should recognize current and retired elected officials.
3. That staff analyze whether funding could be found for a graduate student to collect standardized data on women in municipal politics.
4. To send minutes of the Committee's previous discussion on intersectionality. The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Chair Roger Anderson welcomed Committee members and presented FCM staff, including Renée Giroux who will be the Acting Senior Director of FCM International while Sébastien Hamel is on a leave of absence. The members approved the agenda and the minutes from the November 2015 Board of Directors' meeting in Ottawa.

The Committee was presented with the second year work plan of FCM's International Relations Framework, which outlines a set of strategic objectives for FCM's international work from 2015 to 2018. In 2016, FCM will focus on its engagement in international municipal networks, including the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), the Association internationale des maires francophones (AIMF), and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF); advancing development cooperation through its 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 updates on their programs. These included presentations from Cllr Brian Pincott for the Haiti-Municipal Cooperation Program (MCP), Cllr Michael Thompson for the Caribbean Local Economic Development (CARILED) program, Cllr Garth Frizzell for the Sustainable and Inclusive Communities of Latin America (CISAL), and Chair Roger Anderson for the Program on Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance (PLEDDG) in Ukraine.

The Committee received an update on business development files. In January, FCM submitted a proposal to Global Affairs Canada (GAC) on strengthening the resiliency of municipalities in the central and southern regions of Jordan that have been impacted by the influx of Syrians displaced by the war. FCM will continue to work with GAC on the approval of program proposals in the area of asset management, governance and service delivery. Committee members received an update from staff on the Syrian Refugee Taskforce by FCM staff. The taskforce has been in regular contact with officials at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to stay abreast of Canada's commitment to welcome refugees.

In September, during its General Assembly, the United Nations (UN) adopted a universal set of goals, known as the Sustainable Development Goals, to guide development from 2015-30. Cllr Pam McConnell provided an example of how the goals could be applied to the Canadian context through, for example, poverty reduction strategies at the local level. FCM will ensure the integration of the goals within its international programming frameworks, as well as awareness and promotion in Canada. In addition to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee also received a brief update on the successful integration of sub-national governments in the Paris Agreement coming out of COP21 in December. FCM will continue to promote the role of local governments in the implementation of climate change programming and initiatives in the coming months. At the annual conference, FCM will welcome international partners to participate in various workshops, plenaries and study tours. A parallel program will be organized for partners to showcase the different areas of work of FCM, including the Green Municipal Fund, policy development and gender equality. FCM's international awards will also be presented to Canadian municipalities and experts during the CEO reception in honour of our international partners.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.