



300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON
N6A 4L9

London
CANADA

March 19, 2012

Chair and Members
Finance & Administrative Services Committee

**RE: Report of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities of Directors Meeting –
Kitchener, - March 7-10, 2012-03-19**

OVERVIEW

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board of Directors meetings took place in Kitchener, ON, from March 7 – 10, 2012.

Board members participated in Regional Caucus meetings, Standing Committee and Forum meetings and a strategic planning session. Some also attended a “Grain to Brain” study tour that highlighted local knowledge centres that included two universities and Blackberry maker Research in Motion, as well as the City of Kitchener Operations Facility.

Over the four days, Board members discussed many important topics that affect FCM’s member municipalities. These include FCM’s five-year Strategic Plan, the federal government’s Long-Term Infrastructure Plan and Budget 2012, housing, policing and community safety, economic development, the environment, rural and remote issues, transportation policy and international development, among others. The Board considered 16 resolutions.

FCM’s Strategic Plan

Board members took a major step toward the adoption of FCM’s new Strategic Plan by unanimously approving the five-year blueprint. The Strategic Plan has been in development for a year now and will set FCM’s direction and priorities from 2012 to 2017.

Now that the plan has been approved by the Board, it will be presented to FCM members at the Annual Conference in Saskatoon this June. The subsequent step will be to develop a Monitoring & Evaluation Framework to define the relevant outcomes and indicators for each key result area. This framework will be presented to the Board in September for refinement and approval.

Long-Term Infrastructure Plan

With billions of dollars at stake for municipalities, the federal government’s Long-Term Infrastructure Plan stands as the top priority on FCM’s policy agenda over the next 18 months. FCM is working closely with the federal government on the development of the plan, which is expected to produce new federal infrastructure programs to replace the Building Canada Plan when it expires in 2014. Board members heard and discussed FCM’s approach to the plan’s development process, whose three phases will run through 2012. At the meeting, two consultations – including one that was focused specifically on rural, remote and Northern communities – were held to gather direct feedback on the plan. Board members were briefed on their role in FCM’s strategy to ensure municipalities are successful in securing a Long-Term Infrastructure Plan that supports strong cities and strong communities.

Budget 2012

Board members discussed Budget 2012 and heard about FCM’s policy agenda aimed at convincing the federal government to address two priority areas: municipal infrastructure, and removing investment barriers in the rental housing market to preserve construction jobs and address the shortage of affordable homes.

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.

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The Chair welcomed new and returning board members.

The Committee discussed the resolution calling on FCM to endorse the *Vienna Declaration* and the resolution to support the *Expedited Process for Addressing Breaches of Conditional Sentence Orders*.

The committee received a report on *Bill C-10, the Safe Streets and Communities Act*. Committee members directed staff to continue to solicit input from stakeholders on the impacts of C-10 on municipalities and raise concerns with Public Safety Canada as they arise.

Councillor Bob Long provided a summary of the March 6 meeting of the Joint Committee on Community Corrections and their tour of the Grand Valley Institute for Women. Councillor Long provided information about the successful Region of Waterloo Crime Prevention Council and also asked the committee to consider new members to the Joint Committee before the September, 2012 meeting of the Joint Committee on Community Corrections.

The committee received a report on the 700MHz broadband governance structure initiative being undertaken by Public Safety in consultation with FCM.

The committee then received a presentation from crime prevention specialist, Professor Irvin Waller. Professor Waller addressed the economic and social benefits of investing in crime prevention alongside policing and enforcement, and demonstrated the value of municipal leadership in innovative crime prevention strategies.

President Vrbanovic provided an update on the FCM Policing Tour. The President has been out meeting with members, police boards, the police sector council and other stakeholders talking about the changing realities of policing on the ground that are leaving municipalities on the hook for ever growing policing budgets.

The committee approved the progress report on policy and advocacy priorities and moved on to approve the proposed policy statement.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended;
2. Adopt the policy forum agenda;
3. Direct staff continue to solicit input from its PTA colleagues, NGO stakeholders, police and crime prevention associations on impacts of C-10 on municipalities, and raise any concerns with Public Safety Canada as they arise;
4. Direct staff to continue working with Public Safety Canada to develop a 700 MHz spectrum implementation strategy and action plan;
5. Continue advocating for the allocation of 20 MHz of the 700 MHz for public safety agencies
6. Continue to work with Health Canada to develop Medical Marijuana production regulations that represent municipal safety concerns.

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Don Downe welcomed new and returning committee members and introduced the committee vice chairs, Councilor Réjean LaForest, from City of Saguenay, and Mayor Jerrod Schaffer from City of Swift Current.

The committee approved the report of the November 2011 meeting, as well as the action items status report.

FCM staff provided an update on FCM's pre-budget submission and activities. FCM has asked for significant commitments to continue the long-term infrastructure plan process, establish Infrastructure Canada as a department in its own right and, finally, that the federal government play a leadership role in creating incentives for rental housing construction.

The committee then received an update on the status of negotiations on CETA from Canada's chief trade negotiator, Steve Verheul. The committee asked a wide range of questions relating to how the agreement may affect municipalities. Mr. Verheul reiterated the need for continued communication between DFAIT and FCM. Further, the committee also heard that DFAIT is continuing to champion information-sharing and consultation between municipalities and provinces and territories. DFAIT committed to provide written responses to specific questions brought forward by committee members, including a commitment to protect the public provision of water services by municipalities. Staff will share this information as it is received. The committee also considered a resolution on CETA to intensify and broaden communication and consultation between all orders of government.

The committee considered two additional resolutions. The first calls on FCM to encourage Elections Canada to provide leadership in bringing together best practices and encouraging innovative thinking about increasing both voter turnout as well as the reliability of elections more generally. The second resolution urges FCM to call on the Government of Canada to provide a PILT to municipal libraries that service populations located on federal lands.

Staff provided a short update on the progress of the State of the Cities and Communities Report as well as the 2011-12 Policy and Advocacy Priorities.

The committee heard two presentations. John Tennant, the consultant leading our research into the municipal role in attracting international investment, provided a brief update on the status of his work. Interviews are lining up quickly and a draft will be ready for April 2012. The second presentation was provided by Ashley Casovan, from the City of Edmonton, who brought the committee up to speed on the city's bid to host the 2014 World E-Government Organization (WeGO).

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

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

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Members, Harold Usher and Joni Baechler)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The meeting began with a welcome from the Chair and moved relatively quickly through the first three agenda items; there were no amendments to the agenda.

The resolutions generated discussion notably on the *Improvements to the Eco Energy Home Retrofit* resolution and on the *Recycling at Canada Post Facilities* resolution. In the case of the former, committee members contemplated making major changes to the resolution because its operative clauses proposed changes to a program which had been cancelled. Members, particularly from rural regions were concerned that the resolution seemed to condemn wood fuelled heating systems outright where for some communities it is the only option. Ultimately, the changes adopted were minor and reflected the initial intent of the resolution. Discussion around the Canada post resolution centered on whether recycling was available in all communities and whether new problems could be created through banning the bins; minor amendments were adopted.

Two decision reports were discussed and members were pleased to hear of the successful launch of the green economy report. The principles for FCM participation in international advocacy meetings relating to our domestic policy agenda were well received. However, members wanted staff to ensure that the wording of the recommendations does not conflict with current practices related to FCM's participation in meetings of international municipal organizations in which FCM is a member as well as with the ongoing work of FCM International.

There was a brief discussion of the environment committee's overall infrastructure related priorities in preparation for the long-term infrastructure plan (LTIP) consultations taking place at the board. Predictable funding for climate change adaptation – planning based on new patterns of climatic events rather than budget – emerged as the number one priority.

Finally the committee received an update on the activities of the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program and members were invited to join the PCP advisory board. Four members submitted their names for consideration. Members then received an advocacy outlook update, discussed the report on the 2011-2012 advocacy priorities and provided comments to the upcoming FCM Policy Statement.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended;
2. Adopt the policy forum agenda;
3. Pursue opportunities to advance the Green Economy agenda in the Long-term Infrastructure Plan process and Rio+20 preparations.
4. Approve the following criteria for participation in international meetings with respect to FCM's domestic policy agenda:
 - a. The theme of the event should be relevant to FCM's current policy work;
 - b. The event should have high visibility due to the participation of heads of state;
 - c. We participate as a member of Canada's official delegation.
 - d. At least two out of the above three criteria should be present to justify participation.

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT (Member, Joni Baechler)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Pam McConnell welcomed everyone to Kitchener and invited committee members and observers to introduce themselves.

The committee then approved the agenda, the report from the Ottawa Board Meeting, and its action items. This included changing the dates for the awarding of scholarships and distributing the scholarship promotions package to Standing Committee members.

Following these approvals the committee heard a series of reports.

Councillor Lorrie Williams, City of New Westminster, B.C., provided an update of the subcommittee on scholarships' work, including providing the names of the winners of the 2011 awards and the status of the 2012 awards. It was decided that the deadline for the scholarship applications will be extended to April 15th, in order to provide committee members more time to promote the awards in their regions. There was also a discussion of the annual scholarship breakfast, held at the AGM. It was decided to keep the price at \$25 per plate this year, and increase the price to \$35 per plate beginning in June 2013.

Vice Chair Marguerite Ceschi-Smith then provided a summary of the accomplishments of the Getting to 30% Program, including the success rate of participants in our B.C. workshops in the November elections, and the completion of our series of webinars. Councillors who had hosted workshops in their municipalities shared positive impressions with the committee. A six-month extension of the program funding by Status of Women Canada was also announced. The committee thanked FCM First Vice President Karen Leibovici, City of Edmonton, for her help in securing this funding, and agreed to send Minister Ambrose a letter of thanks.

Next, Councillor Michelle Morin-Doyle, Quebec City, provided an update of the Protégé Program. This began with an announcement of Quebec City's decision to participate as the program's fourth municipality, and an update on staff consultation visits to the participating municipalities, as well as the production of program materials and research. Following the update, Edmonton City Councillor Ben Henderson provided some insight into the progress of the program in Edmonton and told the committee about the program launch in Edmonton with Minister Ambrose.

Shannon Joseph, FCM Policy, spoke about her experience as part of Canada's delegation to the 56th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York. This year the commission focused on the unique needs of women in rural communities. Carilynn Siemens also updated the committee on FCMI's work on international partnerships on gender related programs. This included work on both the Municipal Local Economic Development (MLEED) program and the Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED) program, both of which have strong gender equality components. She also updated the committee about FCMI's participation in the United Cities and Local Governments Women's Committee Conference.

FCM's National Programs Director Onno Kremers led a discussion of the committee's work for long-term funding options.

The Policy Forum Agenda and Policy Statement were approved, and the meeting closed with a short discussion of the format of the policy forum at the AGM in Saskatoon.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendations for adoption:

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

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The meeting began with a welcome by acting Chair Len Bracko who conveyed Mayor Buckway's best wishes and regrets that she was unable to attend. Several changes were announced to the agenda, notably the discussion of two onsite memos – one on housing and the other on communications – as well as the removal of the infrastructure discussion item.

The committee discussed a resolution on the Northern Resident Tax Deduction (NRTD), which was presented as an opportunity to advance the recommendations from staff's research on the NRTD which were approved at the September 2011 board meeting. Members approved amendments that reflected the fact that the exceptional cost of living conditions in Nunavut exist throughout the territories.

There was an overview of the progress on policy priorities and members were pleased that work had been done to advance their concerns around housing and communications. The long-term infrastructure plan (LTIP) process was again identified as the primary vehicle for advancing Northern concerns with respect to infrastructure and adaptation; members look forward to the discussions that were scheduled for Friday of the Board Meeting. The committee was given a presentation by the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation (NWCD). Representatives from NCDC, including two committee members, shared the planning and relationship building work that they are doing to promote economic development in northwestern Canada.

The discussion of the two onsite memos resulted in the collection of important feedback on avenues for further research and sources of high quality data. Members provided names of organizations and individuals who could provide a broader picture of conditions on the ground as staff continues its work and determines the best way to advance these advocacy priorities.

Finally a word of thanks was expressed by to the Northern and Remote Forum, for the work that has been accomplished together. This work, complemented by other FCM initiatives on gender, was critical in FCM staff's participation at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the policy statement;
2. Adopt the policy forum agenda;
3. Approve the proposed scope and timeline of work for Northern Housing research.

Recommendations for referral to staff:

4. Direct staff to examine the best way to advance the board's priority around Northern communications in light of the Telesat P3 opportunity.

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (Member, Joni Baechler)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Following the introductions of the members of the committee, the Chair, Councillor Lise Burcher, called for a motion to receive the report from the November 2011 committee meeting.

The committee then received several updates from the governance representatives of each of FCM International's programs, including the Municipal Partners for Economic Development Program (MPED) in Africa, Asia and Latin America; the Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Program, the Municipal Local Economic Development Program in Ukraine and the Caribbean Local Economic Development Program (CARILED). During the course of these reports the Chair made two announcements; first the appointment of Councillor Chris Coleman (Victoria, BC) as MPED-Latin America governance representative, and second the opportunity for committee members to submit their experience profiles as application for the governance representative position for CARILED.

A discussion followed on business development and revenue diversification, during which FCM International's Director, Sébastien Hamel, shared updates on recent developments in opportunities with China, Bolivia, Haiti and Guyana. The committee also discussed and approved the exploration of a new program development opportunity to support local governments in the Dominican Republic. The Committee Chair, Lise Burcher then shared a report on FCM's international networks and relationships, and highlighted FCM's participation and work on policy development, aid effectiveness coordination and knowledge sharing in gender equality at the December meeting of United Cities and Local Governments in Florence, Italy.

Committee members reviewed small revisions and updates to the International Policy Statement, and recommended that it be adopted as amended. FCM staff presented the 2012 plan for the International Policy Forum for the Annual Conference, and the committee also recommended its adoption. Finally, the committee participated in an activity to celebrate the 25-year anniversary of FCM International: As head of the committee task group on 25th anniversary planning, Mayor Debra Button (Weyburn, SK) gave an update on the planned activities for the coming year, and members increased their knowledge and understanding of FCM members' involvement overseas in the past 25 years through a questionnaire. Finally, members were designated Ambassadors of the 25th Anniversary Celebration, and each received a visible identifier to help spread the messaging of the year-long celebration with FCM's members and partners.

The meeting closed with an update of staff changes within the International department, including the promotion of Sébastien Hamel to Director of International, and the announcement that the designation of three committee members, Mayor Woodrow French (Conception Bay, South, NL), Councillor Len Bracko (St. Albert, AB) and Councillor Karl Kiefer (Cambridge, ON) as FCM board members is coming to an end. Their participation on the committee will be missed.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

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

Recommendations for referral to staff:

3. Explore new program development opportunities to support local governments in the Dominican Republic.

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Member, Harold Usher)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The Chair welcomed the Committee to Kitchener.

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of National Programs about the successful FCM Community Infrastructure Partnership Program (CIPP) and congratulated CIPP on its recent leadership award. Several Committee members agreed to participate on a working group to identify areas where FCM can look to expand its program partnership with the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

Staff presented an overview on the high profile release of its rental housing report: The Housing Market and Canada's economic recovery. The Committee agreed that the report and accompanying media and letter templates were useful advocacy tools and supports ongoing staff efforts to push for rental housing incentives in the upcoming federal budget.

The Committee received a report on the Quality of Life Reporting System and its web tool Municipaldata.ca and learned that the QOLRS will be releasing a web based report on rental housing in the spring that will complement the recent Housing Market report.

After a discussion about emerging policy issues regarding immigration and the President's involvement in roundtable discussions on immigration, the Committee approved a recommendation directing staff to explore webinars and other opportunities to bring these forums to rural and smaller communities.

The Committee received a report on the upcoming launch of a toolkit from the UNESCO led Coalition of Canadian Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination. FCM provided input into the launch and is recognized in the report.

The Committee considered and approved the 2011 Policy Statement as amended.

The Chair provided an update on his work as a member of the Canadian Reference Group on Social Determinants of Health and approved a recommendation to extend an invitation to the Reference Group to speak the Committee at the FCM 2012 AGM.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended;
2. Adopt the policy forum agenda and
3. Direct staff to facilitate a Committee working group to identify areas for future programs with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

Recommendations for referral to staff:

4. 4. Direct staff to continue working with PHAC and the AFC Initiative Working Group to ensure a strong voice for municipalities in developing milestones and principles for AFC in Canada.
5. 5. Direct staff to explore webinars and other opportunities to bring immigration and other FCM policy forums to rural and smaller communities.
6. 6. Working with the SED Chair, staff is directed to invite the Canadian Reference Group on Social Determinants of Health to present at the 2012 AGM.

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee chair Raymond Louie welcomed new and returning members to Kitchener. The chair introduced the committee vice chairs, Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti from the City of Toronto and Councillor Brian Pincott from the City of Calgary.

The committee set aside two hours for board consultations on the long-term infrastructure plan. These conversations were scheduled after the committee business concluded. Staff will be providing a report summarizing the discussions in the near future.

Discussion opened with a review of the action items status report. Staff reiterated the importance of continuing to advocate for capacity-building elements within the upcoming long-term infrastructure plan. The committee also heard an update from Councillor Merrill Henderson with respect to the ongoing work on the FCM-RAC Proximity Initiative (www.proximityissues.ca).

The committee considered three resolutions. The first dealt with emergency telephone service during states of emergencies. The second resolution calls on the Government of Canada to consult the local municipal government before the authorization is granted for the location or construction of new airparks. The final resolution urges FCM to prohibit the removal of public telephone booths unless the agreement and consultation with the host municipality is received. Staff provided updates on FCM's work to date on the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card. FCM is working alongside the CCA, CPWA and CSCE to produce a timely report to present the state and performance of municipal infrastructure. The launch of this report will parallel the federal government's long-term infrastructure plan process. Secondly, staff updated members on the status of its rights-of-way files to date, including the ongoing dialogue hosted by the CRTC. Staff committed to updating the committee as appropriate.

The committee next approved the report on the 2011-12 Policy and Advocacy Priorities as well as the proposed policy statement and policy forum agenda.

The committee debated a recommendation to establish "active transportation" as a key funding category under new infrastructure program. The committee decided that this was too prescriptive and did not allow for the required flexibility that municipalities need in future infrastructure funds.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

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

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Chair David Marit welcomed everyone to the Rural Forum. After the approval of the minutes, the committee reviewed the Action Item Status report. A letter was sent and received from Minister Kent about the closing of the Marine Rescue Coordination Centres. An additional letter was sent to Minister Ashfield in regards adding requirements to the 700 MHz bandwidth spectrum auction to ensure winning carriers build out their network in rural areas.

The forum reviewed the resolution on Canada Post Service Cuts. There was concern around the table that Canada Post is not listening and continues to cut services without notice to rural residents across Canada. The Forum requested that staff develop a template letter for forum members to use to send to their local Members of Parliament.

Don Forfar and staff presented on the meeting had with the Director of Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. The DFAA guidelines spell out what provincial and territorial disaster expenses are eligible for federal cost-sharing who in turn reimburse municipalities. Many of the municipal issues have been recently addressed in the 2008 changes to the DFAA however, the federal government has yet to see one event from start to finish under these new guidelines which is part of the reason there has been some miscommunication around the proposed changes.

Staff presented on the Forum's second priority for 2011-2012 to develop a basic research paper outlining the current state of Rural Canada. There was some discussion to include a look at demographics, the definition of rural, emergency services, agriculture and food policy and the environmental impacts of municipal activities such as road salt.

Recognizing that the Rural Forum was shortened for the rural, northern, and remote infrastructure consultation, Forum members still felt that they would like more time at the board meetings. In addition, there was discussion on the need to ensure the inclusion of rural perspective and inclusion of rural delegates at the AGM.

Lorne Olsvik presented an update on telecommunications. The Forum was pleased with the work that FCM has done on the allocation of 20 MHz of the 700 MHz for public safety. However there is still work to be done on rural access and to encourage the federal government to design a cost effective and innovative program to address the needs of rural telecommunications.

Finally, the Forum thanked Len Bracko and Woodrow French who are attending their last FCM Board Meeting for their contributions to the FCM and the Rural Forum.

FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Direct any concerns in regards to the DFAA to Provincial/Territorial Municipal Associations, to subsequently share with their respective Provincial/Territorial governments;
2. Direct FCM to communicate to the federal government, in coordination with the provincial/territorial associations, only upon nationally agreed changes and/or concerns;
3. Approve the proposed rural research White Paper;
4. Use part of the Rural Policy Forum at FCM's Annual Conference for research consultation;
5. Adopt the policy statement;
6. Adopt the policy forum agenda, as amended.

Emergency recommendations for referral to the Executive Committee:

7. Provide report on the rural content and focus of past and upcoming conferences and develop options to welcome and recognize rural delegates.

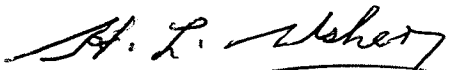
Non-emergency recommendations for referral to the Executive Committee:


8. Work with Industry Canada to help enable rural broadband communications in under-serviced and un-serviced areas.

Recommendations for referral to staff:

9. Provide a template letter for Rural Forum Members to send to their members of Parliament in regards to Canada Post service cuts.

Respectfully submitted by:


Harold Usher
Councillor, Ward 12
FCM Board Member


Joni Baechler
Councillor, Ward 5
FCM Standing Committee Member