



London  
CANADA

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September 28, 2017

Chair and Members  
Corporate Services Committee

**RE: Report of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting – Wood Buffalo, AB, Sept 12 – Sept 15, 2017**

**SUMMARY**

The FCM Board of Directors met in Wood Buffalo, AB, from September 12-15. Board members spent four days addressing vital national issues playing out at the local level as well as the historic gains achieved by local governments. The details of those discussions are presented in the Committee reports that follow.

As the first formal meeting of this iteration of FCM's Board—and only mere days before the return of Parliament—a central goal for the week was to establish FCM's Shared Priority for 2017-2018. This year's priority, adopted by the Board on Friday, is twofold. The first immediate priority is to consolidate the gains that local governments have made. Board members agreed that the coming months would present a number of opportunities to do this—namely through the federal and provincial/territorial negotiations on Phase 2 of the federal infrastructure plan, as well as the upcoming National Housing Strategy. The Board resolved to ensure that municipal priorities are front-and-centre and that local governments present a strong, united message as these two critically important developments unfold. Board members discussed key outstanding advocacy priorities that coincide with these developments. They include full and fair provincial cost-sharing; significant grant funding for social and affordable housing; predictable green infrastructure funding; and a rural lens for Phase 2 infrastructure programs. The second priority identified and adopted by the Board is to use Federal Election 2019 to make the case that the local order of government is a fundamental partner in building a better Canada. Board members agreed that it is essential to immediately begin the work of showing how more empowered local governments are good for Canada. To do that, they agreed, would require a game-plan, and strategic patience.

Board members also paused for a moment of silence to remember four colleagues who passed away recently. They include former St. Albert Councillor Len Bracko; executive director of the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick Raymond Murphy; former Sudbury Councillor Dave Kilgour; and Toronto City Councillor Pam McConnell. Board members heard that FCM staff is exploring ways to formally honour Councillor McConnell's incredible legacy on the Board of Directors, and Board members were asked to contribute their ideas. Staff will bring forward a recommendation at the November Board meeting in Ottawa.

**Personal support appreciation:**

Our appreciation is extended to the numerous members of Civic Administration who continue to dedicate their time and effort to ensure that we, as London representatives to FCM, are well informed in advance of these important Committee and Board meetings. In particular, we thank the Government and External Relations team for pulling together information from nearly every service area of the Corporation to support our involvement. Such professionalism and purpose ensures that we, as London's representatives, can showcase the innovative policy and programming work that are being undertaken in London.

Respectfully submitted by:

Councillor Harold Usher  
FCM Board Member

Councillor Tanya Park  
FCM Committee Member

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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

The meeting began with roundtable introductions and Vice-Chair Sheryl Spence shared regrets from Chair Barbara Steele and Vice-Chair Marie-Eve Brunet.

Following extensive discussion, the Committee approved the recommended 2017-2018 policy and advocacy priorities of (a) Cannabis Legalization and Regulation; (b) Investing in Canada Plan Implementation – Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund; and (c) Policy Development on Disaster Mitigation and Response to Flood Events.

Members were then updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last meeting on the design of the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. Staff outlined FCM's work with the federal government to design and deliver this fund to meet the diverse needs of municipalities across the country. The Committee agreed that FCM should direct staff to advocate for key municipal interests in the design of the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund.

The Committee also discussed federal developments related to disaster mitigation and response to flood events. Following the discussion, the Committee is recommending that additional research and further refinement of FCM's policy related to disaster response and recovery.

Members were also updated on FCM's advocacy on cannabis legalization. The Committee recommended that staff undertake additional research into the municipal cost impacts of cannabis legalization and to take the necessary actions to ensure that municipalities have access to the resources required to effectively support their obligations under the new federal regime.

The Committee then received an update on the design and deployment of the Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN). FCM staff identified a number of critical policy questions related to the design and deployment of the PSBN that must be addressed in the coming months. To guide future discussions with the federal government on this critical tool for first responders, the Committee is proposing a number of recommendations related to the PSBN's governance, sustainability and the future use of spectrum. Committee members were then updated on the work of the Mayors' Task Force on the Opioid Crisis and their May 2017 recommendations to the federal government that emphasize the need for a comprehensive and coordinated pan-Canadian response involving provinces/territories, municipalities and Indigenous communities. The Committee is recommending that FCM endorse the Task Force's recommendations and advocate for their full implementation.

The Committee then considered and recommended for adoption a resolution on remediation standards for properties used for drug-related activities.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the following 2017-18 committee-specific policy and advocacy priorities: (a) Cannabis Legalization and Regulation; (b) Investing in Canada Plan Implementation – Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund; and (c) Policy Development on Disaster Mitigation and Response to Flood Events.
  2. Direct staff to undertake additional research into the cost impacts of cannabis legalization to support advocacy activities that aim to:
    - i. ensure that municipalities have support for upfront implementation costs in addition to ongoing costs;
    - ii. advance a revenue sharing formula that includes a dedicated allocation of excise taxes collected by provincial or federal governments to municipal governments, recognizing the resource implications at the local level;
    - iii. ensure that all funds from the proceeds of cannabis sales are directed towards cannabis related education, health, enforcement and administration; and,
    - iv. ensure that funding to support cannabis legalization locally is not tied to tax revenues exclusively, should implementation, ongoing administration and enforcement costs exceed the municipal portion of revenue sharing formula.
3. Direct staff to continue to engage the federal government to ensure that the municipal role in cannabis legalization and regulation is recognized, and ongoing consultation is undertaken.
4. Direct staff to continue FCM's engagement with the federal government to:
  - i. Develop a governance model that incorporates municipal oversight in the deployment and operation of the PSBN;
  - ii. Develop training, technology and other resources and a fee structure that ensures the long-term accessibility and sustainability of the PSBN; and
  - iii. Ensure consistent security, coverage, and quality of service across different regions and jurisdictions.

5. Endorse the recommendations of the Mayors' Task Force on the Opioids Crisis released in May 2017;
6. Direct staff to seek opportunities to work with the BCMC to advocate for the implementation of the Task Force recommendations including that the federal government:
  - i. Immediately establish and report on comprehensive timelines, measures and definitive evidenced-based targets for specific outcomes related to each of the four pillars of the Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy – harm reduction, treatment, prevention and enforcement;
  - ii. Adopt a comprehensive and coordinated pan-Canadian action plan which addresses the root causes of the opioid crisis, aligns federal, provincial/territorial and local strategies, responds to the specific needs of Indigenous communities, and rapidly expands all aspects of the collective response;
  - iii. Take concrete actions to meaningfully and urgently address all four pillars of the Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy, with an emphasis on:
    - a. Harm reduction – facilitate access to supervised consumption sites,
    - b. Treatment – eliminate delays in access to comprehensive, wrap-around treatment and long-term recovery supports;
    - c. Prevention – develop evidence-based strategies to address stigma;
    - d. Enforcement – establish national evidence-based protocols for the remediation of contaminated scenes and the handling of fentanyl and carfentanil;
  - iv. Improve surveillance, data collection and reporting and ensuring consistent and timely access to opioid-related death and overdose data by establishing a pan-Canadian reporting standard with a minimum of quarterly reports and a target of monthly reports in all provinces/territories;
  - v. Work with local governments to address the urgent need to develop more social and affordable housing, including supportive housing and housing employing a harm reduction approach, through the implementation of the federal government's National Housing Strategy and a long-term expansion of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy;
  - vi. Work with provinces/territories, municipalities, Indigenous organizations and stakeholders to develop, implement and monitor the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy, which should address both the root causes of addiction, as well as supports to alleviate the immediate consequences of addiction; and
  - vii. Establish an intergovernmental dialogue about access to substance use prevention, harm reduction and treatment options for individuals in Canada's correctional system, and the role of the criminal justice system in addressing the root causes of the opioid crisis.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

Mayor Sheryl Spence  
Vice-Chair  
Standing Committee on Community  
Safety and Crime Prevention

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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Committee Chair Vicki-May Hamm opened the meeting by welcoming committee members and introducing Vice-Chairs George Bridge and Laurent Tétrault, and by welcoming new and returning members.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2017 meeting, the committee approved the recommended 2017-2018 policy and advocacy priorities of 1) North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations; 2) Policy Development on Municipal Finance and Municipal Autonomy; and 3), Investing in Canada Plan Implementation – Canada Infrastructure Bank.

Committee members were updated on Canada-United States relations, including NAFTA renegotiations and the softwood lumber dispute. The committee recommended FCM should continue to engage with the federal government throughout NAFTA negotiations to advance municipal positions on key trade issues including reciprocity in government procurement practices and meaningful dispute mechanisms. Further, the committee agreed continued advocacy to support municipalities during the softwood lumber dispute was needed including a letter to key federal ministers.

An update on the FCM Legal Defense Fund was presented by staff with a summary of recent requests for FCM interventions in legal disputes before the courts. The Committee agreed on the proposed Terms of Reference for the management of the FCM Legal Defense Fund.

Next, Committee members received an update on the implementation of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and plans for continued collaboration with Global Affairs Canada on tools for implementation. The Committee was also provided with an update on FCM advocacy on Canada Post service delivery and the delay for a decision by the federal government on the restoration of door-to-door mail delivery to late 2017.

Committee members considered four resolutions for the Board's approval, two of which were referred back to staff for further analysis.

As other business, the Committee was provided a notice that the federal government is conducting a consultation on Draft Tax Legislative Proposals, as well as on Legislative and Regulatory Proposals Relating to The Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax and to the Excise Act. FCM staff is working with FCM's Tax Committee to determine any potential impacts the proposed changes may have on municipalities, and whether these changes respond to concerns previously raised by the Tax Committee related to the rebate period for Municipal GST/HST Rebate claims.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Approve the three proposed priority areas: 1) North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations; 2) Policy Development on Municipal Finance and Municipal Autonomy; and 3), Investing in Canada Plan Implementation – Canada Infrastructure Bank.
2. Direct staff to continue to engage with Global Affairs Canada (GAC) throughout NAFTA negotiations to advance FCM's position on reciprocity in government procurement;
3. Direct staff to connect our position on maintaining meaningful dispute mechanisms in NAFTA renegotiations in relation to Chapter 19 and the softwood lumber dispute, as well as advance the position of municipal governments' right to regulate in regards to investor-state dispute mechanisms;
4. Direct staff to engage with GAC, provincial and territorial associations, the Big City Mayor's Caucus, and other key stakeholders to continue conveying the concerns and messages of the municipalities on U.S trade relations, including the importance of the softwood lumber industry to many communities across Canada;
5. Direct staff to draft a letter to key federal ministers outlining FCM's position on the softwood lumber dispute and following-up on the resolution letter from June; and,
6. Approve the FCM Legal Defense Fund Terms of Reference for Fund Management.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

Mairesse Vicki-May Hamm  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Municipal Finance  
and Intergovernmental Arrangements

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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Vice-Chair Cynthia Downey opened the meeting by offering regrets from Committee Chair Paul Pirri and Vice-Chair André Bellavance.

Following the approval of the Report of the March 2017 Meeting, the Committee turned its attention to the 2017-2018 Policy and Advocacy Priorities. Staff presented the political and policy context for the three proposed priorities. The Committee heard that climate change continues to be a top priority for the federal government, and that there is a need for FCM to: (a) continue to influence the design and delivery of federal climate change funding programs that are currently under development; and (b) undertake further research on the positive contributions that municipalities are making and can make in order influence federal policy and prepare for Election 2019. The Committee also heard that the design and implementation of the Investing in Canada Plan has important implications for the Committee's mandate, namely related to the delivery of Green Infrastructure funding and the government's stated interest in achieving climate change objectives through infrastructure investments (the proposed Climate Lens). The Committee noted that it will be important for the provincial and territorial municipal associations to engage their respective provinces and territories to ensure that the green infrastructure components of the Integrated Bilateral Agreements (IBAs) work for municipalities. Finally, the Committee heard that in the coming year the federal government will be developing specific legislative, policy and program changes in response to the environmental and regulatory reviews that took place this past year, including on the National Energy Board (NEB) and the Fisheries Act.

Staff presented an update on FCM's ongoing engagement in the review of four pieces of legislation governing federal environmental and regulatory assessment processes – the National Energy Board (NEB) Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), the Fisheries Act and the Navigation Protection Act. The Committee received an overview of FCM's latest submission, which combines all of the recommendations approved by the Board of Directors in the past year.

The Committee then considered FCM's engagement in an ongoing roundtable with the National Energy Board (NEB) and the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) that would focus on operational issues related to land-use and development, and construction and maintenance of municipal infrastructure, within federally regulated pipeline rights of ways. The Committee heard that the mandate of the proposed table would not include the process for reviewing and approving new pipeline projects, and that FCM's engagement in the roundtable would be separate from our ongoing engagement with the federal government on NEB Modernization. The Committee's recommendation to the Board is that FCM take this opportunity to engage directly with industry and a federal regulator on issue of significant importance to municipalities, similar to our work with the Railway Association of Canada on the rail safety. The Committee requested that the focus of the Roundtable be expanded slightly to consider both built and natural municipal infrastructure.

The Committee considered and debated five resolutions for the Board's approval.

Green Municipal Fund (GMF) Council Chair, Councillor Ben Henderson, provided an update on GMF and FCM's new Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP). The Committee heard that GMF is undertaking a strategic review that will be presented to GMF Council later this month, and that new funding for a municipal staff position related to climate change will be available through MCIP this fall.

Finally, Councillor Brian Pincott provided an update on the activities of the National Zero Waste Council, and alerted the Committee that two new FCM representatives from the Committee are needed as a result of turnover on FCM's Board. Councillor Mairin Loewen was nominated to represent FCM immediately, and Councillor Harold Usher was nominated to represent FCM effective November 1, 2017.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the following 2017-2018 committee-specific policy and advocacy priorities:
  - a. Federal Climate Change Policy and Programming;
  - b. Investing in Canada Plan Implementation – Green Infrastructure and Climate Lens; and
  - c. Federal Environmental and Regulatory Reviews.
  
2. Approve FCM's engagement in an ongoing roundtable with the National Energy Board (NEB) and the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) that would focus on:
  - a. Land-use and development in proximity to pipelines;
  - b. Construction and maintenance of built and natural municipal infrastructure within pipeline rights of way; and
  - c. Communication processes between municipalities, the pipeline industry, and the NEB with regard to public awareness, emergency management and municipal planning and development near pipelines.

3. Recommend Councillor Mairin Loewen to participate on the Management Board of the National Zero Waste Council, and, effective November 1, 2017, recommend Councillor Harold Usher to also participate on the Management Board of the National Zero Waste Council.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

Councillor Cynthia Downey  
Vice-Chair  
Standing Committee on Environmental Issues  
and Sustainable Development

## MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Chair Jeannie Ehaloak opened the meeting by welcoming members, including Vice-Chair Diana Rogerson, and staff. Vice-Chair Charles Furlong was unable to attend the forum meeting and sent his regrets. Chair Ehaloak provided members with a brief overview of the mandate of the forum and reminded members that the purpose of the September meeting was to establish the policy and advocacy priorities for the coming year.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2017 meeting, Forum members turned their attention to establishing priorities for the upcoming year. Members heard about how FCM advocacy helped secure the \$2 billion Rural and Northern Communities Fund, ensuring that federal infrastructure funding meets the distinct needs and realities of northern and remote communities. Building off this work, the Forum identified the Investing in Canada Plan implementation as one of its two 2017-18 priorities, in terms of implications for northern and remote communities. Recognizing the significance and impact of climate change in northern and remote communities, Forum members recommended that the second of its two priorities be energy security and climate change.

Next, the Forum discussed, and recommended, a set of principles to inform the design of two new federal energy programs – Promoting Clean Energy for Remote Communities and the Arctic Energy Fund. The principles pertaining to these funds focus equally on parameters to help define energy security, as well as recommendations to ensure the programs help northern and remote communities transition away from diesel power. Forum members approved the principles but suggested prioritizing the recommendations for advocacy purposes.

Following this important discussion, an update was provided on the Rural and Northern Communities Fund, including key design elements implicated in the Integrated Bilateral Agreements process.

Forum members then heard about Transport Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund. While the Fund's allocation formula and eligibility criteria are still to be determined, Forum members learned that the carve-out for the three territories would be \$400 million. Staff committed to seeking clarity on the first call for applications, as it was unclear if there would be a focus on northern airport improvements or broad project eligibility.

Next, the Forum was updated on FCM's broadband advocacy and policy work as related to northern and remote communities. Building on FCM's recent submission to the CRTC in June 2017, FCM will continue to monitor the implementation of the basic service objective funding regime and advocate for a specific strategy for communities reliant on satellite internet services.

Lastly, the Northern and Remote Forum turned their attention to FCM's existing bylaws related to membership in the Forum. After productive discussions there was consensus among members to adjusting FCM bylaws to ensure membership compliance with the current membership practices of the Forum. This included adding adding Caucus Chairs and Vice Chairs to the bylaws list of eligible members and adjusting the line of northern delineation to ensure there was alignment with federal northern programming. Forum members requested that staff examine Forum eligibility criteria in more detail and return to the board in November with recommended language to help further clarify NRF membership criteria more broadly.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the following 2017-2018 forum-specific policy and advocacy priorities: a) Investing in Canada Plan Implementation – Northern and Remote Communities; and b) Energy Security and Climate Change; and
2. Approve the following principles to inform the design of federal energy programs in northern and remote communities: a) Ensure broad program eligibility criteria;  
b) Recognize the long-term benefits of supporting higher upfront costs for new technologies;  
c) Investment in operational support, training and costs;  
d) Invest in data collection and pilot studies specific to northern and remote regions; and  
e) To improve energy security in Canada's territories, programming should: i. incentivize energy efficiency and conservation without creating barriers to northern and remote community energy security; and  
ii. prioritize the reliability of energy when defining energy security and in program eligibility criteria.

The Forum recommends this report be received.

President Jeannie Ehaloak  
Chair  
Northern and Remote Forum

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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Committee Chair Councillor Yolaine Kirlew opened the meeting by introducing Vice-Chairs Director Leah Main and Councillor Tom Taggart, and welcoming both new and returning Committee members. A moment of silence was held to honour former Committee Vice-Chair and City of Toronto Deputy Mayor, the late Pam McConnell.

Councillor Kirlew then provided members with a brief overview of the mandate of the Social-Economic Development (SED) Committee and reminded members that the central purpose of the September meeting is to establish the policy priorities of the Committee for the coming year.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2017 meeting, Committee members discussed potential priorities and then agreed to recommend the National Housing Strategy; poverty elimination; and urban indigenous policy as its three priorities for 2017-18.

The Committee then received an update on the forthcoming National Housing Strategy (NHS), which is anticipated to be released in the fall of 2017. Members were reminded of the multiple and comprehensive contributions FCM has made to the NHS development process to-date, and of the key commitments FCM will be looking for within the NHS. These include grants for social housing repairs and new social and affordable housing, and a replacement for expiring rent-geared-to-income subsidies for low-income households in social housing.

A substantive discussion on the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) then ensued. This took place in light of the current review of this program with expected recommendations on its renewal anticipated in December 2017 by the Homelessness Advisory Committee being chaired by Parliamentary Secretary Adam Vaughan. The Committee agreed on comprehensive recommendations to be provided to the Homelessness Advisory Committee as part of their review of HPS. The recommendations are designed to ensure HPS continues to be community-delivered, but that is enhanced through various program design changes.

An update was also provided to the Committee on the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy, which is anticipated in late 2018 or early 2019. Committee members were reminded that FCM provided a submission to the federal government with recommendations for the Strategy entitled *Ending Poverty Starts Locally*, on the basis of the Committee's work in early 2017.

An update was provided and thorough discussion on the federal Urban Indigenous Policy and Programming (UIPP) initiative – formerly the Urban Aboriginal Strategy – took place, for which FCM provided significant input in the fall of 2016. The Committee equally discussed other federal initiatives focused on improving the relationship with and opportunities for Indigenous people, as well as broader political considerations on these issues that the Committee agreed it will need to carefully consider going forward.

Members also debated one resolution focused on rehabilitating historic sites through a federal tax credit. Urban Aboriginal Working Group Chair Councillor Ben Henderson provided a summary of items discussed at the meeting of Working Group, including how the Working Group could better connect to the indigenous-focused policy work of SED.

A brief update on the two FCM programs focused on municipal – First Nation partnerships, the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) and the Community Infrastructure Partnership Project (CIPP), was also provided by Committee member Chair Rhona Martin. Chair Martin is the newly appointed Governance Representative for CIPP and CEDI.

To close the meeting, Committee members shared recollections of the late Pam McConnell. The Committee unanimously agreed the compassion and wisdom she brought to Committee discussion will be irreplaceable.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the following policy and advocacy priorities for 2017-18: a) National Housing Strategy; b) poverty elimination; and c) urban indigenous policy.
2. Approve the following recommendations as the basis of FCM's input to the renewal of the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS):
  - a) Retain the federal-community orientation of HPS;



- b) Use the increase in HPS funds to modestly expand the number of designated communities where there is a demonstrated need at the same time as providing a modest amount of additional funding to designated communities where homelessness is most acute, and that the current level of funding for existing designated communities be, at a minimum, maintained over the life of the program;
- c) Maximize flexibility in local decision-making, including as it relates to Housing First, and including allowing for ongoing operational funding, such as wrap-around supports and supportive housing;
- d) Incorporate adaptive models of the Housing First principle that are more responsive to distinct population groups, such as for youth and families fleeing domestic violence;
- e) Ensure local efforts aimed at homelessness prevention can be supported, in conjunction with efforts that contribute to the National Housing Strategy (NHS) goal of cutting chronic homelessness in half;
- f) Renew HPS for the length of the NHS to provide maximum, and unprecedented, predictability for communities – while allowing space for federal policy adjustments as suggested by communities;
- g) Ensure a seamless connection at the federal level between HPS and the NHS through employing a ‘single window’ for NHS proponents;
- h) Align NHS and HPS outcomes locally by encouraging local HPS Community Advisory Boards (CABs)/Community Entities (CEs) representatives to be part of local decision making tables on new/redeveloped NHS housing projects;
- i) Support research to better understand the nature of homelessness, or risks of homelessness, particularly in rural communities, for larger families and for newcomers;
- j) Require CABs/CEs to include a municipal representative;
- k) Align HPS and NHS at the political level by ensuring meetings of Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers responsible for housing incorporate a focus on homelessness and include, through FCM, a municipal representative to provide perspective on local HPS outcomes and lessons learned; and
- l) Ensure HPS funding can be stacked with other federal programs, and that the federal government encourage provinces/territories to employ similar flexibility.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

Councillor Yolane Kirlew  
 Chair  
 Standing Committee on  
 Social-Economic Development

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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Committee Chair Sav Dhaliwal opened the meeting by introducing Vice-Chair Randy Goulden and sharing regrets from Vice-Chair Joanne Vanderheyden.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the March 2017 meeting, the Committee discussed the recommended 2017-2018 policy and advocacy priorities of : (a) Investing in Canada Plan Implementation –Integrated Bilateral Agreements; (b) Railway Safety Act Review; and (c) Telecommunications Act Review. The Committee approved these recommendations.

The Committee then heard about municipal considerations regarding the Community Employment Benefits Reporting Framework, which will be required by the federal government as part of its approach to outcomes-based reporting for the Investing in Canada Plan. The Committee agreed that FCM should direct staff to conduct further research and consultations with members regarding municipal policy considerations for the design and implementation of the proposed Community Employment Benefits Reporting Framework, and continue to engage Infrastructure Canada on the development of the Framework. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that FCM should direct staff to provide an update at the November 2017 Board of Directors meeting, or at an earlier meeting of the Executive Committee should federal consultation timelines require the adoption of policy direction prior to the November meeting.

Members were then updated on the Investing in Canada Plan Implementation. Staff updated the Committee on new details about the content and design of the Investing in Canada Plan. Next, the Committee heard about the federal government's recently announced \$10.1 billion Trade and Transportation Fund. Staff also provided updates on the federal government's reviews of the Railway Safety Act and the Rights-of-Way and Telecommunications Act.

The committee considered two resolutions submitted by member municipalities. The committee recommended that the board not adopt a resolution on the development of high speed Internet in urban areas. The committee recommended that the board adopt a resolution calling on the federal government to consult with Canadian local governments and other stakeholders before making any ownership changes to Canada's airports.

Lastly, Councillor Bill Karsten gave an update on the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP). Committee members heard that the program hosted two well-received, awareness building workshops in June, one with the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators, and one at the FCM Annual Conference. MAMP has received a large number of applicants since the application process opened in May 2017.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the following 2017-2018 policy and advocacy priorities: (a) Investing in Canada Plan Implementation – Integrated Bilateral Agreements; (b) Railway Safety Act Review; and (c) Telecommunications Act Review.
2. Direct staff to conduct further research and consultations with members regarding municipal policy considerations for the design and implementation of the proposed Community Employment Benefits Reporting Framework, and continue to engage Infrastructure Canada on the development of the Framework; and
3. Direct staff to provide an update at the November 2017 Board of Directors meeting, or at an earlier meeting of the Executive Committee should federal consultation timelines require the adoption of policy direction prior to the November meeting.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

Councillor Sav Dhaliwal  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Municipal  
Infrastructure and Transportation Policy

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

The meeting began with roundtable introductions and the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs for the coming year. Ray Orb was re-elected as Chair, and Al Kemmere and Scott Pearce were elected as Vice-Chairs.

Following extensive discussion, the Forum approved the recommended 2017-2018 policy and advocacy priorities of a) Investing in Canada Plan Implementation – Rural and Northern Communities Fund and Rural Lens; (b) Rural Broadband; and (c) Rural Economic and Social Development. Forum members stressed the importance of ensuring that rural and northern communities have access not only to the Rural and Northern Communities Fund, but are able to fairly access all funding under the Investing in Canada Plan. Members also encouraged FCM to advance social issues as part of their policy and advocacy work on rural economic and social development.

The Forum then received an update on the development of FCM's new report on the future of rural Canada and rural-specific programming at the 2017 Annual Conference. For the 2018 Annual Conference, the Forum is proposing that FCM continue to integrate topics relevant to rural communities and rural economic development in a rural programming stream and plan a rural-specific plenary session that will be hosted once every two years. Forum members also expressed an interest in hosting a "Rural 101" session to introduce FCM's rural policy and advocacy work to delegates.

Members were then updated on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last meeting on the Investing in Canada Plan. Staff outlined FCM's work with the federal government to design and implement each component of the Investing in Canada Plan to ensure that they are tailored to the unique needs of rural and northern communities. Members stressed the importance of focused advocacy by both FCM and the provincial/territorial municipal associations in shaping the infrastructure bilateral agreements to best serve rural Canada. Members also expressed the need to for provinces and territories to work with provincial/territorial municipal associations to better define rural communities for the eligibility criteria for the Rural and Northern Communities Fund.

Members were also updated on FCM's advocacy on rural broadband. Staff outlined FCM's participation in the CRTC's consultation on the development of the new broadband funding mechanism and FCM's ongoing discussions with federal counterparts to develop a national comprehensive communications strategy for rural Canada. The Forum was then updated on FCM's advocacy and research on issues related to rural economic and social development, including advancing a formal mechanism for the federal government to elevate rural priorities.

The Forum then discussed the impact of cross-border migration on rural communities and directed staff to research this issue and report back at the November 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Adopt the following 2017-18 forum-specific policy and advocacy priorities: (a) Investing in Canada Plan Implementation – Rural and Northern Communities Fund and Rural Lens; (b) Rural Broadband; and (c) Rural Economic and Social Development.
2. Direct staff to work with the ad-hoc rural conference programming working group to:
  - i. Integrate topics relevant to rural communities and rural economic development into the 2018 Annual Conference's rural programming stream; and
  - ii. Plan a rural-specific plenary session to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities in rural economic development and diversification that will be hosted once every two years.
3. Direct staff to research the issue of cross-border migration that affects Canadian municipalities and report back to the November 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

The Forum recommends this report be received.

President Ray Orb  
Chair  
Rural Forum

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INCREASING EN'S PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

The Committee Chair Chris Fonseca, introduced Councillor Darren Hill and Councillor Sandra Desmeules, who was unable to be at the Board of Directors' meeting, as the Vice-Chairs of the committee and welcomed committee members and staff. The committee approved the agenda and the minutes from the March 2017 Board of Directors' meeting in Whistler.

The committee was presented with a tribute to the late Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell (Toronto, ON), who passed in July 2017. In 2005, Deputy Mayor McConnell helped establish the Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government and shaped the development of FCM's domestic programming on women issues. During her time as an FCM Board Director, she also participated in many international initiatives, in particular on the establishment of caucuses for female municipal elected officials and through her engagement in international municipal networks, namely the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

The Chair and Vice-Chair Hill presented the 2017-18 committee-specific priorities. The first recommended priority for the committee is the delivery of the Diverse Voices for Change project, which has directly supported the committee's aim to increase the participation of women in politics, with a particular focus on women of diverse backgrounds. The second priority is on program development which will focus on approval of FCM's proposal to Status of Women Canada to deliver a project that would see the development of a plan to elect more women to municipal office in Canada. As a third priority, the committee will continue to focus on the recognition of the recipient of FCM's women in local government scholarships and awards. In 2017-18, FCM received the largest number of applicants for its scholarship and awards program. The fourth priority is to continue to promote the Regional Champions network as an excellent avenue for the ongoing promotion of program tools. Finally, the committee will continue to ensure a strong link to FCM's international programming related to gender equality, in particular as it relates to the Government of Canada's feminist international assistance policy (FIAP).

The Chair announced the appointment of Councillor Yolaine Kirlaw as the Governance Representative for the Diverse Voices for Change project. Councillor Kirlaw provided an update to the committee on the implementation of the project. She noted the successful workshops that took place in the five municipalities (Edmonton (AB), Sioux Lookout (ON), London (ON), Montreal (QC), and Halifax Regional Municipality (NS). The workshops attracted women of diverse backgrounds and led to many participants indicating interest in running for municipal office this fall in Quebec and Alberta or taking on roles within their municipality. The project will come to an end in August 2018.

Vice-Chair Darren Hill presented the results of last year's awards and scholarship process and selected winners. He also presented the proposed timeline and new criteria developed to streamline the selection process, including the involvement of FCM Board Directors as reviewers of the scholarship applications. The timeline to receive applications has also been shortened to ensure adequate time for review before the March Board of Directors' meeting.

In June, FCM met with the Minister of Status of Women Canada, the Honourable Maryam Monsef, to formalize the relationship with her office and discuss the ongoing partnership between FCM and Status of Women Canada over the last decade. The Minister then attended the conference workshop on increasing women's participation in municipal government. The workshop was hugely successful and helped inform the development of a project proposal to develop a municipal sector approach to engaging more women in municipal government. During the committee meeting, FCM staff provided an update on the development of the proposal to Status of Women and the ongoing dialogue with the Minister's office. The committee continues to be interested in pursuing conversations with Status of Women Canada and the Minister to ensure approval of the proposal in the next year.

FCM staff provided an overview of the Government of Canada's new feminist international assistance policy. The Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, released the policy in June that outlines the importance of putting women and girls at the heart of development. FCM staff will be analyzing how FCM can respond to the new policy through its current and future programming.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Recommendation for referral to staff:***

1. Direct staff to undertake research to assess the impact and measurements of FCM's domestic women in local government programs.

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

1. Adopt the following 2017-18 committee-specific policy and advocacy priorities: a. Diverse Voices for Change;  
b. Program Development on Women in Local Government;  
c. Women in Local Government Scholarships and Awards;  
d. Regional Champions; and  
e. International Partnerships on Gender-Related Programs
2. Approve the new FCM Women's Scholarships Promotion and Recruitment Plan including a new timeline, recruitment strategy and promotional activities.
3. Approve the new eligibility requirements for the Canadian Women in Municipal Government Scholarship including a request to female students involved in a leadership position to develop a video testimonial instead of writing an essay.

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received.

Councillor Chris Fonseca  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Increasing Women's  
Participation in Municipal Government

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

### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Councillor Bev Esslinger welcomed committee members and introduced Vice-Chair Councillor Blair Lancaster and FCM staff. The committee approved the agenda and the minutes from the March 2017 Board of Directors' meeting in Whistler.

The committee received an overview of the Government of Canada's new feminist international assistance policy (FIAP) that was released by the Minister of International Cooperation and La Francophonie, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau. The FIAP will focus on 6 areas: 1) gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; 2) human dignity (health and nutrition, education and humanitarian assistance); 3) growth that works for everyone, and that particularly targets climate-smart agriculture, green technologies and renewable energy; 4) environment and climate action, including both adaptation and mitigation in response to climate change, as well as water management; 5) inclusive governance, democracy, human rights and the rule of law; and 6) peace and security, to promote peace processes and combat gender-based violence, while advancing the women, peace and security agenda. The committee had a discussion on its response to the policy and possible opportunities to enhance current and future programming to align with the new policy. FCM staff will continue its engagement with the Government of Canada, namely through the Joint Working Group on Development, to further its understanding and possible contribution to Canada's foreign objectives.

As part of the update on program development, committee members discussed the devastation of Hurricane Irma to the Caribbean islands and southern United States. Committee members asked for more information on how Canadian municipalities could respond to disasters, such as Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Matthew, which devastated parts of the Caribbean last fall. The committee also received an update on the status of proposals to the Government of Canada in support of FCM's international work. FCM staff will continue its discussions to advance the proposal process with Global Affairs Canada in the coming months.

The committee received reports from the Governance Representatives appointed to each of the projects. The 2017-18 Governance Representatives will be Chair Roger Anderson (Durham, ON) for the Partnership on Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance (PLEDDG) in Ukraine; Councillor Garth Frizzell (Prince George, BC) for the Sustainable and Inclusive Communities of Latin America (CISAL); SUMA President Gordon Barnhart for the Jordan Municipal Support Project (JMSP); Councillor Clark Somerville (Regional Municipality of Halton, ON) for the Building Inclusive and Green Municipalities in South Africa program; Mayor Alexandre Cusson (Drummondville, QC) for the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation-LED in Africa; Councillor Bev Esslinger (Edmonton, AB) for the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation-LED in Asia; and Councillor Marvin Plett (Winkler, MB) for the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation-LED in Latin America. The Chair thanked Councillor Michael Thompson (Toronto, ON) on his contribution to FCM's Caribbean Local Economic Development (CARILED) program, which ended earlier in 2017.

In addition to the program reports, the committee received an update on FCM's engagement in global networks. In June, FCM signed a memorandum of understanding with the Global Covenant of Mayors. Over the coming year, FCM and the Global Covenant will work towards an agreement that will increase the international recognition of Canadian municipalities as climate leaders, simplify the involvement of Canadian municipalities in the in Global Covenant and align the work of FCM's Partners for Climate Protection with the Global Covenant milestones. Additionally, FCM will continue to monitor and contribute to the Government of Canada's plans for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Canada and abroad. During the upcoming meeting of the Joint Working Group on Development with Global Affairs Canada, FCM will profile the role of local governments in the realization of the SDGs, with particular focus on the goal focused on sustainable and inclusive communities.

Throughout 2017, FCM has been celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of international cooperation programming. Events were organized during FCM's annual conference and the Government of Canada's International Development Week. During the November Board of Directors' meeting, To close the celebrations, FCM will organize an activity with a potential focus on FCM's work with local governments and marginalized groups in Canada and internationally.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Recommendation for referral to staff:***

1. Direct staff to communicate to the Government of Canada FCM's offering, as a strategic partner, to support the implementation and the promotion of the Government of Canada's new feminist international assistance policy (FIAP).
2. Direct staff to inform FCM members of service providers and funders supporting the on the ground efforts following Hurricane Irma.
3. Direct staff to undertake research, including reviewing the FCM Disaster Management Protocol and developing criteria, to assess when FCM responds to natural disasters around the world.

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received

Councillor Bev Esslinger  
Chair  
Standing Committee on International Relations