

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2012
FROM:	GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON
SUBJECT	LONG TERM INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FCM CAMPAIGN "TARGET 2014: BUILDING OUR FUTURE"

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Liaison, Municipal Council **SUPPORT** the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Campaign for a long-term federal plan for municipal infrastructure funding: *Target 2014: Building our Future* and the following resolution **BE ADOPTED**:

Development of a new long-term federal plan for municipal infrastructure funding

WHEREAS the Building Canada Plan and a number of important federal-provincial transfer agreements vital to Canada's cities and communities, will expire in March 2014;

WHEREAS federal investments over the last few years have helped to slow the decline of our cities and communities, and the Government of Canada has committed to develop a new long-term plan for municipal infrastructure funding in consultation with municipal and provincial/territorial governments;

WHEREAS a seamless transition from the Building Canada Plan to a new long term plan is necessary to ensure that municipalities can continue planning their capital spending effectively;

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a campaign to ensure the new plan reflects municipal priorities across the country and asks its member municipalities to pass a Council resolution supporting the campaign;

AND WHEREAS the City of London has continuing infrastructure needs, such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater, that can only be met with through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by a national plan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the City of London endorse the FCM campaign and urge the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to work with FCM and cities and communities to ensure the new long-term infrastructure plan meets the core infrastructure needs of cities and communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Corporation of the City of London urge the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to ensure that the new long-term infrastructure plan is fully in place when existing programs expire in 2014 and prior to adoption of 2014 municipal budgets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, to the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to MPs Preston, Holder, Truppe and Mathysen, MPPs Bentley, Matthews, Armstrong and Yurek, the Ontario Minister of Infrastructure, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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None

BACKGROUND

Almost \$2 billion dollars a year in federal infrastructure funding for municipalities will end when the federal government's Building Canada Plan expires in March 2014 along with funding for a number of other critical cost-shared programs. The federal government has promised to develop a new plan before the deadline, in partnership with municipalities, provinces, territories and other key stakeholders. The process is now entering the consultation phase.

To support its advocacy in the development of the new plan, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched an awareness and information-gathering campaign to ensure that the new plan reflects municipal priorities across the country and is fully in place when existing programs expire in 2014.

The campaign will leverage traditional and social media to encourage local residents, businesses and organizations to get involved as well as demonstrate a united front for the need for continued federal investment in our communities. The campaign will run until spring 2013, when FCM expects the federal budget to produce its long-term plan.

Target 2014: Building our Future was launched at the FCM Annual Conference in Saskatoon attended by Mayor Fontana and Councillor Usher, where the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable Denis Lebel, launched the consultation phase of the plan.

The FCM Big City Mayors' Caucus emphasized that the new long-term infrastructure plan must guarantee cities a fairer, more secure share of the tax revenues generated in our communities.

Minister Lebel emphasized his commitment to work closely with municipalities in developing the infrastructure plan and that there will be a seamless transition between the ending of the Building Canada Plan and the new program. The minister recognized the importance of having municipal interests represented at every table by having FCM and provincial/territorial municipal associations at every regional meeting. He also outlined a roundtable process for engaging in a dialogue with municipalities in regions across the country. The consultations will be held in nine locations across Canada during July and August with the final national meeting held in the National Capital Region.

The new plan gives Canada the opportunity to turn around the long-decline in its aging infrastructure and reduce the traffic gridlock choking its big-city economic hubs. The first step is to protect the core investments cities have fought hard to secure in the last decade, beginning with the permanent federal Gas Tax Fund, which invests \$2 billion per year in municipal roads, bridges, water treatment, and public transit.

Further details are available at <http://www.fcm.ca/home/issues/infrastructure.htm>.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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