

September 25, 2012

Chair and Members  
Finance & Administrative Services Committee

**RE: Report of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting – Laval, QC September 5-8, 2012**

**OVERVIEW**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board of Directors meetings took place in Laval, QC, from September 5 – 8, 2012.

Regional Caucus meetings, Standing Committee and Forum meetings and two Committee of the Whole meetings focused on the federal government's initiative to develop a new long-term infrastructure plan.

Board members heard an update on the plan and voted on FCM's recommendations to the plan. The Board recommended that FCM urge the government to announce the long-term infrastructure plan in Budget 2013, to ensure the plan is in place in time for the 2014 construction season. Other recommendations focused on areas such as program design and length, funding levels and funding delivery mechanisms. The Board also recommended that FCM's final submission to the government about the plan should make a strong link between high-quality infrastructure and economic growth.

The Board endorsed FCM's core principles for the long-term infrastructure plan. The principles focus on securing our economic foundations, protecting recent gains in federal funding programs for municipalities, and addressing emerging challenges such as new standards for wastewater systems and adapting infrastructure for climate change. Board members were updated about FCM's Target 2014 campaign, which aims to engage member municipalities in a national effort to draw attention to the importance of the long-term infrastructure plan for Canada's cities and communities. To date, more than 160 municipal councils have passed resolutions endorsing Target 2014. Board members were encouraged to urge their councils to pass resolutions and to spread the word about Target 2014 to other municipalities in their regions. The Board adopted a recommendation encouraging all members, including PTAs, to engage in Target 2014 and to support FCM's advocacy towards the long-term infrastructure plan.

Board members were also briefed about the new Infrastructure Report Card that FCM released September 11. The first of its kind in Canada, the report card shows more than half of municipal roads require significant repairs and one in four wastewater plants needs major upgrades.

**The following is a summary of discussions at the various Standing Committee levels and specific recommendations adopted by the Board for each.**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**

**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**

Committee Chair, Susan Gimse welcomed new and returning board members including the new Vice Chairs, Jocelyne Guertin, Councillor, Ville de Laval, QC and Bob Long, Councillor, Township of Langley, BC. The Committee received a special welcome from Councillor Guertin, our host city representative.

Staff presented to the committee the proposed priorities for the coming year, including details of an advocacy plan around the release of a report on the 2011-12 President's Policing Tour and participation and input into Public Safety Canada's upcoming National Summit on the Economics of Policing in 2013. After a fulsome discussion, the Committee adopted staff's recommendations for its 2012-2013 policy and advocacy priorities.

The Committee adopted the resolution before it calling on FCM to urge the federal government to allocate resources to local police departments to manage increased policing demands arising from related new federal legislation.

Councillor Bob Long provided a summary of the last meeting of the Joint Committee on Community Corrections. The Committee will undertake to facilitate the introduction of local Citizen Advisory Committees on corrections with local governments. The CSCP Committee recommends that the President make the following new appointments to the Joint Committee: Dave Hodgins, Councillor, Township of Esquimalt, BC, Peter Holman, Councillor, City of Summerside, PEI, Tim Tierney, Councillor, City of Ottawa, Sue Uteck, Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality, Ray Orb, Vice President, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. The Committee further recommends the following appointment of FCM board members who are not sitting on the CSCP Committee Lorne Olsvik, Councillor, Lac Ste. Anne County, Clark Somerville, Councillor, Regional Municipality of Halton, and Linda Rydholm, Councillor, City of Thunder Bay.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### ***Recommendations adopted by the Board:***

1. Adopt Economics of Policing as its 2012-13 policy and advocacy priority, as part of FCM's strategic policy and advocacy work plan;
2. As part of its policing priority, ask the President to write to the other national policing stakeholder associations, to urge them to work together to ensure that National Policing Summit, being planned in early winter by the federal government, focuses on the key priorities related to policing costs;
3. As part of its policing priority and subject to final approval of executive committee release a report on the findings from the FCM President's National Policing Tour, in the lead up to the National Policing Summit.
4. As part of our emergency preparedness advocacy, sign on to a joint (F/P/T/M 700 MHz working group) letter of support to Industry Canada calling for the "D Block" 10 MHz of broadband spectrum to be allocated to a national interoperable emergency broadband network.
5. Call on Health Canada to provide an advanced copy of the proposed Medical Marijuana Access Regulations to ensure they comply with FCM's calls for action.
6. Call on the Minister to meet with the FCM President to discuss plans for interim measures to address concerns of health and safety before the new regulations take effect in 2014;
7. Ensure the Minister tasks Health Canada to continue to work with and consult municipalities on all regulations regarding safety standards, compliance and enforcement.

## **REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS (Member, Councillor Joni Baechler)**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Committee chair Don Downe welcomed new and returning committee members to Laval. The chair introduced the vice chairs, Roger Anderson and Robert Coulombe.

The committee considered the 2012-13 Policy and Advocacy Priorities. Staff provided the rationale for focusing on the core priorities for the upcoming year. The committee approved the priorities for the year ahead: *Diversifying municipal revenues and fiscal tools through Long-term Infrastructure Plan* and *International Investment Attraction and Trade Agreements*. Staff provided an update on what is being heard around the role and importance of public-private partnerships (P3s) as part of LTIP going forward. The committee recommended that staff prepare a P3 outline that will provide advice to the Government of Canada on how to design a P3 program which works with municipal realities on the ground. Central to this advice will be consideration of capacity-building and up-front financial support for the costs associated with determining the appropriateness of a P3.

Staff provided updates related to the action items status report. A previous recommendation from Atlantic caucus to explore advocacy around providing federal tax receipts for municipal campaign contributions was discussed. No action is to be taken on this issue.

The committee considered one resolution on the development of a forestry renewal strategy. Considerable debate followed. Many members pointed to this as a national economic issue and, as such, should be supported by FCM. The committee recommended this resolution as Category A.

Staff provided an update on the recent Supreme Court case on PILTs. A solid victory for the sector, the decision in the Halifax case represents much needed certainty with respect to how federal properties are valued under the PILT Act. UNSM expressed their appreciation for the work the committee did on this file. Committee members discussed the need to continue to work with Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) staff to address outstanding issues related to the decision. Each municipality was encouraged to assess how this decision will impact their bottom line in the future.

Staff provided an update on some future opportunities to build on the relationship the Board has developed with International Trade Minister Ed Fast. Specifically, the committee considered a proposal to explore commonalities between what each order of government undertakes to incent and encourage international investment in our communities. The committee supported this work and asked that staff report back in future meetings the findings of this work, including the parallel work being undertaken by the BCMC.

Staff provided the latest intelligence related to the Canada-E.U. trade agreement. Considerable progress has been made on CETA to date, with all but the most challenging issues still up for debate. The Government is still committed to signing an agreement by the end of 2012. Chair Downe and others strongly encouraged members to contact their provincial trade officials to learn the full effects of how the trade deal will affect them. The committee reasserted the need to continue the dialogue between all governments. Finally, action items arising from the last meeting of the Joint Working Group on International Trade will be pursued when next the group meets.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### ***Recommendations adopted by the Board:***

1. Adopt the following as its 2012-13 policy and advocacy priorities, as part of FCM's strategic policy and advocacy workplan:
  - a. Strategic Priority: International Investment Attraction and Trade Agreements
  - b. Committee-specific Priority: Financing Issues Relating to the Long-term Infrastructure Plan
2. Endorse the Big City Mayor's Caucus staff working group to develop concrete examples and evidence of the role of municipalities in attracting international investment
3. Approve the draft proposal to DFAIT; and

4. Direct staff to explore opportunities with DFAIT to better link the work federal and municipal governments undertake in the area of international investment attraction.
5. Direct Staff to develop a P3 outline to inform the Government of Canada of the municipal perspectives and barriers to aid in shaping an appropriate P3 program under the LTIP.

## **REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Member, Councillor Harold Usher)**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

The meeting began with a welcome from vice-Chairs Lloyd Hines and Marguerite Ceschi-Smith; they extended the regrets of Chair Michelle Morin-Doyle who was unable to attend the meeting. The agenda proceeded with an overview of the accomplishments for 2011-2012 and an overview of the proposed committee priorities. These included one strategic priority and two committee specific priorities. Discussion was generated by FCM's involvement in the Zero Waste National Marketing Council initiative and potential solid waste related advocacy over the coming year. Members noted that agricultural waste often does not receive sufficient attention but is a serious concern in many jurisdictions where it is not accepted by landfills. Others highlighted the importance of odour control issues in the context of solid waste management.

FCM was asked to support a motion was presented to the House of Commons by NDP MP Mylène Freeman calling for a discussion of federal programming options to support communities in their efforts to address the problem of ageing, polluting, septic systems. This motion was based on FCM resolution ENV09.3.06 and committee members voted to support the principles of the MP's motion. Following this, members discussed a resolution dealing with the issue of banning the importation of shark fins and shark fin products. After much discussion members adopted staff's recommendation that the resolution be categorized as a non-municipal issue.

The committee received an update on the activities of the Green Municipal Fund, including funding priorities and the process to bring on new council members. This was followed by a presentation on the Partners for Climate Protection measures report, delivered jointly by staff and Warden Hines. These national programs updates were followed by a discussion of the dedicated GMF funds for brownfields projects and the reasons for the difficulty in getting them dispersed. Committee members discussed new efforts by staff to address barriers to increasing the number of GMF Brownfield Projects.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### ***Recommendations adopted by the Board:***

1. Adopt the following as its 2012-13 policy and advocacy priorities, as part of FCM's strategic policy and advocacy work plan:
  - Strategic Priority #1: Federal support for municipal capacity building in for sustainable infrastructure, drawing on GMF as a model
  - Committee-specific Priority #1: Solid waste reduction enabling extended producer responsibility
  - Committee-specific Priority #2: Source water protection
2. Write a letter in support of the principles found in an opposition motion to have the house study the issue of septic systems as expressed in FCM resolution ENV09.3.06.

## **REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT (Member, Councillor Harold Usher)**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Committee Chair Erin Hogan welcomed everyone to Laval and invited committee members and observers to introduce themselves.

The committee then approved the agenda, the report from the Kitchener Board Meeting, and its action items. Following these approvals the committee heard a series of reports.

Chair Erin Hogan provided a summary of the accomplishments of the Getting to 30% Program, including the success rate of participants in our New Brunswick workshops in the May elections, where 74% of those participants who ran were elected, and the completion of our series of webinars. Next, she provided an update of the Protégé Program. This included an update of the completed toolkit for communities to offer the mentorship program.

Chair Hogan then provided an update on the June AGM in Saskatoon for those committee members who were unable to attend. This included the presentation of the Ann MacLean award to Helen Hughes at our annual scholarship fundraising breakfast, and the identification of four priority areas for 2012-2013:

- New Program Activities and strategic relationship with Status of Women Canada, including progress on a longer-term funding agreement
- International Day of the Girl and International Women's Day
- Scholarships and Awards
- International partnerships on gender-related programs

Vice-Chair Shannie Duff, Deputy Mayor of St. John's, Newfoundland, provided an update of the subcommittee on scholarships' work, including the names of the winners of the 2012 awards and the status of the 2013 awards.

Vice-Chair Brenda Hogg, Richmond Hill, Ontario, also updated the committee on FCM's work on international partnerships on gender-related programs. This included work on both the Municipal Local Economic Development (MLED) program and the Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED) program, both of which have strong gender equality components. Committee members who were at the World Urban Forum, including President Karen Leibovici and Lise Burcher, Chair of the Standing Committee on International Relations, shared details of the Forum with the committee.

Chair Erin Hogan then updated the committee on the International Day of the Girl and ways the FCM and members of the standing committee can participate. President Karen Leibovici shared details of her meeting with Minister Rona Ambrose regarding the Day's importance. The committee and its members discussed possible activities and committed to supporting the day by hosting an event in their home community. This will be supported by FCM staff, who have prepared a list of possible activities and have developed a template for a proclamation. FCM staff will also provide a template press release for each community to adjust to their own context and release locally. The committee will also call on the broader FCM community, through their own contacts and through FCM news, asking for others to join in the celebrations on the Day. Each community will convey their plans to FCM – and so our activities will be rolled up into a single national campaign on the Day. This will be communicated through a national press release and, ideally, an event with Minister Ambrose.

Alex Long, Senior Manager, National Programs then provide an update to the committee on Program Activities, specifically the upcoming ending of funding for the Getting to 30% and Protégé programs, and the application for funding for Status of Women Canada's 'Setting the Stage of Girls and Young Women to Succeed' program. He also spoke about the meeting between FCM President Leibovici and Minister Rona Ambrose to discuss longer term funding for FCM's women's programs. A discussion about a strategic partnership and longer-term funding arrangement with Status of Women Canada followed. It was suggested that a sub-committee be formed to advise on the strategic direction for longer-term funding, and several committee members volunteered to be included on this sub-committee.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### ***Recommendations adopted by the Board:***

1. Adopt the following as its 2012-13 priorities:
  - New Program Activities and strategic relationship with Status of Women Canada , including progress on longer-term funding agreement
  - International Day of the Girl and International Women's Day
  - Scholarships and Awards
  - International Partnerships on gender-related Programs
2. Charge FCM staff to develop the template press release, the national press release, a template proclamation, and collate the list of activities; and;
3. Commit to hosting an event in their home municipality, to calling on their neighboring communities to do likewise, and to communicating that information to FCM; and
4. Form a sub-committee to provide guidance and input to FCM staff in developing the concept for a comprehensive program, involving a strategic partnership and longer- term program funding agreement with SWC.

## **REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Rural Forum members and staff introduced themselves. The Forum re-elected President David Marit and Councillor Clark Somerville as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

FCM staff presented their recommendations for the Forum's 2012-13 Policy and Advocacy Priorities. Rural infrastructure, and specifically the rural component of the Long-Term Infrastructure Plan (LTIP), was recommended as the first priority for the Forum in the coming year. Research on rural sustainability was recommended as the second priority, and it was discussed that this research is needed to help position the work of the Forum following the completion of the LTIP discussions. Members requested that this research put a dollar value on the economic importance of Rural Canada to the Canadian economy, specifically related to agriculture and national resources development.

Staff also reviewed other priorities for the year ahead, including promoting rural broadband, advocating for a rural champion in Cabinet, following the work of the Conference Board of Canada on a national food strategy and the Canada Post service cuts. Members were informed that representatives from Canada Post are scheduled to make a presentation before the Forum at the November board meeting. Members asked staff to follow-up regarding the possible trade implications of a food strategy and requested that the Forum be provided with ongoing updates on the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.

Staff then presented an overview of current federal policies on rural broadband, namely rural deployment requirements in the upcoming 700 MHz spectrum auction. Members recommended that FCM continue to monitor the 700 MHz auction and that any residuals from the auction be directed to improve rural broadband capacity. The Chair recognized Councillor Lorne Olsvik for his work on rural broadband and the 700 MHz auction.

The Forum discussed the proposed FCM submission on LTIP. The Forum reiterated its support for a Small Communities Component (SCC) within an expanded Building Canada Fund. Members agreed on the principle that the cut-off for SCC eligibility should be lower than the current 100,000 threshold, but that the new SCC cut-off must be determined regionally. Members supported the need to streamline the administrative design of the SCC, and discussed dedicated funding to assist rural municipalities in developing asset management plans.

Members agreed that the Forum supports the revised LTIP ask that includes a dedicated \$300 million fund in the BCF specifically for water and wastewater improvements required as a result of the new federal regulations, and an expanded new Core Infrastructure Fund.

Finally, the Chair recognized President David Hanson on his last meeting as a member of the Rural Forum.

## **FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Recommendations adopted by the Board:***

1. Adopt the following as its 2012-13 policy and advocacy priorities, as part of FCM's strategic policy and advocacy work plan:
  - Strategic Priority #1: Rural Infrastructure
  - Committee-specific Priority #1: Research on Rural Sustainability
2. Direct staff to monitor rural deployment requirements in the licence conditions for the 700 MHz band and subsequent network build-outs; and
3. Continue engaging with Industry Canada on additional measures to improve rural broadband coverage and capacity, including through upcoming policy decisions on the 2500 MHz band and white space spectrum in the bands below 698 MHz; and
4. Ensure FCM's research on rural sustainability provides the basis for future advocacy on the need for additional federal investments in rural broadband.

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

5. The Forum recommends that:
  - a. the FCM executive and staff continue to monitor comments on the 700 MHz spectrum auction;
  - b. any residuals from a deferral account from the auction be directed to improve broadband capacity in rural communities; and that
  - c. a copy of the recommendation be forwarded to provincial/territorial municipal associations for their endorsement.

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

6. Provide report on rural content and focus of the FCM 2103 annual conference and develop options to welcome and recognize rural delegates.

## **REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Member, Councillor Joni Baechler)**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Committee Chair Ben Henderson welcomed new and returning committee members and introduced the new Vice-Chairs, Mayor, County of Wellington and Réjean Laforest, Conseiller, Ville de Saguenay

Staff presented the proposed strategic priorities for the coming year, including targeted advocacy around the expiring federal affordable housing programs and operating agreements. The Committee provided valuable input into details of the proposed advocacy strategy and highlighted the need for FCM to continue to advance the argument for long-term federal support for housing and an end to homelessness. The Committee adopted staff's recommendations for its 2012-2013 policy and advocacy priorities.

FCM-National Programs Senior Manager of Program Development, Alex Long, presented an update on FCM's ongoing discussions with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada about potential collaboration on urban Aboriginal issues. Alex also provided an update about the work of FCM's successful First Nations-Municipal Community Infrastructure Partnership Program.

The committee adopted the resolution calling on FCM to encourage Heritage Canada to reinstate the Katimavik youth program.

Committee Chair, Councillor Ben Henderson, provided an update on the Canadian Reference Group on the Social Determinants of Health. Despite concerns that cuts to the sponsoring federal department may have resulted in the termination of the Working Group, it remains on track and will meet in late fall to continue its anti-poverty mapping work.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Recommendations adopted by the Board:***

1. Adopt the following as its 2012-13 policy and advocacy priorities, as part of FCM's strategic policy and advocacy work plan:
  - a. Strategic Priority 1: Housing and homelessness: Reinvestment of expiring operating and funding agreements
  - b. Committee-specific Priority 1 : Immigration: Supporting successful immigrant settlement
  - c. Committee-specific Priority 2: Aging Population: Understanding the impact on municipalities
2. As part of its housing and homelessness priority, develop a position paper identifying impact of expiring funds and agreements on a set of representative municipalities (Urban, rural, northern, large and small); and
3. As part of its housing and homelessness priority, produce customized fact sheets, much like the customized leave-behinds we developed for each MP at Advocacy Days, that outline current federal housing investments by region/riding and the potential impact of funding program expiries: and
4. As part of its housing and homelessness priority, convene a working group of national stakeholders to develop recommendations for the reinvestment of expiring funding and operating agreements; and
5. As part of its aging population priority:
  - Produce a report using newly released 2011 Census data to analyze the demographic changes of the population of cities and metropolitan regions between 2006 and 2011 and the implication for cities.
  - Undertake scoping research / review of municipal seniors' policies, trends, best practices in addressing the needs of Canada's aging population.

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

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Committee chair Councillor Doug Reycraft opened the meeting and introduced Councillor Brian Pincott and Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti as the committee's Vice-Chairs.

Members discussed and adopted the 2012-13 Policy and Advocacy Priorities: developing the next long-term infrastructure plan, the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card; and, telecommunications policy development.

Staff provided an update on the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card.

Staff provided a substantial update on telecommunications policy, specifically current work on rights-of-way to produce a model municipal access agreement (MAA) and on antenna tower siting to produce an antenna tower siting protocol template in partnership with the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Associations. Staff indicated that these projects are nearing completion and that the committee will be provided an opportunity to comment on a draft model MAA and a draft siting protocol at the next board meeting, and the committee approved the staff recommendations. Mairesse Quinlan requested that staff ensure Quebec municipalities are fully involved in this work.

The committee approved the Action Items Status Report. Following this, the committee considered an emergency resolution from Ontario Caucus, asking FCM to urge the Government of Canada to maintain and improve rail service and frequency across Canada. The Committee recommended adoption of this resolution.

Staff then provided the committee with updates on the BCMC Transit-Specific LTIP Submission and the work of the Municipal Infrastructure Forum. Brief presentations were also made on the City of Regina's National Infrastructure Summit and the FCM-RAC Proximity Initiative's research on updated proximity guidelines.



The committee next continued discussion of the LTIP direction to Board. Chair Reycraft recommended that the committee attempt to provide direction and guidance for the executive committee by adopted a set of recommendations which sum up the conversations members have been having over the past two days. Members discussed a wide variety of issues including the need for all governments to keep sustainability in mind, that all programs FCM seeks under LTIP be indexed to protect their value over time, and that asset management principles must be supported by the LTIP going forward.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Recommendations adopted by the Board:***

1. Adopt the following as its 2012-13 policy and advocacy priorities:
  - a. Strategic priority: Developing the Next Federal Long-Term Infrastructure Plan
  - b. Committee-specific priority: Canadian Infrastructure Report Card
  - c. Committee-specific priority: Telecommunications Policy Development
2. Continue to coordinate municipal input into the CRTC process to develop a non-binding model municipal access agreement to protect the rights of municipalities when negotiating with telecommunication carriers; and
3. Update the ROW Handbook to make reference to the work conducted under the CRTC process; and
4. Continue to work with CWTA on a draft antenna siting protocol and to present this draft to the committee in November 2012 for consideration.
5. Urge the government to announce the long-term infrastructure plan in Budget 2013, to ensure the plan is in place in time for the 2014 construction season;
6. Urge the Government of Canada to commit, in 2013-14, to develop a new long-term approach to housing in advance of the 2014 expiry of the existing social housing programs and the ongoing expiry of operating agreements, together worth almost \$1 billion annually;
7. Develop its long-term infrastructure plan submission built around six key components (program design, funding level, delivery mechanisms, allocation approach, term, restrictions) discussed and agreed on by the Board;
8. Ensure the final submission:
  - a. makes a strong link between high quality infrastructure and economic growth,
  - b. makes the case that adapting to climate change represents a massive new challenge and cost to municipalities that all governments must work together to address;
9. Continue to collaborate closely with provincial/territorial municipal associations (PTAs) so that FCM's advocacy to the federal government supports and complements the same work that PTAs are carrying out to their provincial/territorial governments;
10. Continue to urge all members, including PTAs, to engage in Target 2014, to support FCM's advocacy towards our LTIP ask.

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

11. Ask staff to investigate whether the federal Rail Safety Review and the proposed Canadian Railway-Roadway Grade Crossing Standards are having an impact on the closure of rural rail crossings.

## **REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (Member, Councillor Harold Usher)**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Following the introduction of members of the committee, the Chair, Councillor Lise Burcher, called for a motion to receive the report from the March 2012 committee meeting. The Chair provided an update on the strategic priorities of FCM International (FCMI) for 2012-13, organized within six key result areas, that will guide and support FCM's international programs in the coming year. FCMI's Director, Sebastien Hamel, provided members with an update on program development opportunities, including proposals for new funding and renewal of existing programs, such as that Canada-Haiti Municipal Cooperation Program (MCP) and the Municipal Local Economic Development-Ukraine program. The committee members also received an update Councillor Dorothy Hector on the guidelines and action plan for FCM's response to international natural disasters.

The committee received a program update on the Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Program (MCP) from members of the program consortium, including FCM's Governance Representative, Alderman Brian Pincott, City of Montreal representative, Mayor Claude Dauphin, and President ex-officio, Robert Coulombe, of the Union of Municipalities. The representatives outlined activities for each of their areas of programming. The consortium has sent a preliminary proposal for a second phase of the program to CIDA. The current phase of MCP will be completed in March 2013.

Following the March meeting, FCMI staff was tasked with exploring the possibility of a new program opportunity to support local governments in the Dominican Republic as part of a corporate social responsibility initiative. This was in response to an enquiry received by FCM from the Canadian Embassy in the Dominican Republic to ascertain whether FCM was interested in participating in a project to support local governments in the area of the Pueblo Viejo mine located in the central provinces of Sanchez Ramirez and Monseñor Nouel, Dominican Republic. The committee discussed a framework prepared by staff and a scoping mission undertaken in August, where staff met with local governments, central government and the private sector. Prior to the November meeting, staff has been asked to complete a risk assessment, which will include discussions with government officials and the private sector, and complete an ethical scan. Staff will revise the framework and prepare a memo to guide the committee's discussion at the November board meeting. A task group on corporate social responsibility was established to monitor the completion of these activities and provide input in the coming months.

Due to limited time, the items under Policy and Advocacy and Governance Oversight were not discussed. The agenda items not discussed will be communicated electronically to members of the committee. As part of this correspondence, FCMI staff will send out an expression of interest for the position of MPED Africa representative and members will be asked to express their interest in joining Policy and Advocacy task group to develop a plan for Advocacy Days and to guide the completion of FCM's work on the United Cities and Local Government's policy paper on local government and development cooperation. In the coming months, a list of upcoming opportunities to engage in FCM's international programs will also be circulated.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Finalize FCM's Corporate Social Responsibility framework to support discussions on FCM's involvement in the Dominican Republic; and
2. Circulate outstanding agenda items and call for expression of interest electronically to committee members.

## REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM

### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The meeting began with an welcome by Chair Gord Van Tighem and introductions by all of the members. Discussions began with an overview of the advocacy context for the northern and remote forum. It was noted that the government has made a point of demonstrating interest in the north and this was confirmed by member experience. Members went on to adopt two priorities: Northern Infrastructure and Adaption, and Housing for Northern Economic Development. Members briefly discussed the secondary priorities of the committee, communications and energy, including the impacts of service provider monopolies in the region.

The committee then discussed a memo entitled *Northern Specific Recommendations for LTIP*, which outlined a rationale and a series of seven recommendations to ensure that the needs of northern communities are met. Member highlighted the fact that the northern challenges identified in the memo also applied to the provincial north and that, although the memo dealt specifically with LTIP Territories, these same considerations would need to apply to the management of the new infrastructure program in the northern parts of the provinces. There was also a discussion as to what is considered “north” in the provinces. There were three amendments to the recommendations.

Under Action Items Status Report, staff presented the findings of housing research that was commissioned by the forum at its March 2012 meeting. The findings identified challenges to housing access in the north and consequences in terms of skilled labour retention, territorial revenues. Ultimately a case was presented for federal engagement in northern housing. Members discussed the report at length, including proposed directions for a northern housing strategy for northern economic development. Based on comments, additional research should include land availability, social versus affordable housing, housing for support services and housing issues in the provincial north. Members will receive a draft of the report for comment.

### FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

#### ***Recommendations adopted by the Board:***

1. Adopt the following as its 2012-13 policy and advocacy priorities:
  - Strategic Priority #1: Northern infrastructure and adaptation
  - Committee-specific Priority #1: Housing for northern economic development
2. Make the following LTIP-Territories recommendations to the federal government:
  - a. Funding allocation should be on a base plus population framework
  - b. Disburse funds on an allocation basis; no funds should be application based.
  - c. Allow for more stacking of federal funds given limited availability of capital
  - d. Simplify application forms and reporting requirements
  - e. Allow provincial and territorial municipal associations or other partners to apply on behalf of northern municipalities
  - f. Allow for broad interpretation of eligible projects, insuring inclusion of recreational infrastructure and, as in the previous program, other fixed capital assets used or operated for the benefit of the public.
  - g. Provide flexibility with timing of program delivery

Respectfully submitted by:

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Harold Usher  
Councillor, Ward 12  
FCM Board Member

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Joni Baechler  
Councillor, Ward 5  
FCM Standing Committee Member