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Jan 11, 2019

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee

Re: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Update on Board Activities

With the federal election set for October 2019, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has been busy developing the tools, resources, and networks necessary to ensure the priorities of our cities and communities remain front and centre in the year ahead.

As the Vice-Chair of FCM's Election Readiness Working Group, I will be working closely with counterparts across the country to bring together a wide range of local perspectives to inform the development of FCM's Election 2019 efforts. In the months to come, there will be more to share as federal parties begin the development of their election platforms.

The report attached provides some additional information about work undertaken prior to our last Board of Directors meeting, held from November 20-22, 2018 in Ottawa.

I look forward to keeping my colleagues on Council informed of FCM's work in the months ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Morgan

Josh Morgan
Councillor, Ward 7
Member FCM Board of Directors



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**RE: Report of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Advocacy Days 2018 –
Ottawa, ON, November 20-22, 2018**

Every fall, FCM board members gather on Parliament Hill for FCM's Advocacy Days. This year, 70+ local leaders met with 150 MPs, senators and party leaders—including 24 cabinet ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

Our first key message: Budget 2019 needs to build on what's working in the municipal-federal partnership, so we can keep delivering outcomes in our communities. Recommendations include longer-term support for better broadband access, modern public transit and local responses to extreme weather.

Our second key message: We need to modernize our partnership to serve Canadians better. We kick-started conversations about bringing orders of government together as full partners—and modernized fiscal tools that empower municipalities to get more done for Canadians.

We invited national parties to address our full delegation about their visions for our partnership. Our special guests were Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Dominic LeBlanc, Conservative Deputy Leader Lisa Raitt, and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh.

FCM's Rural Forum held a special session on expanding rural broadband and mobile Internet access. We were joined by David Lametti, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

Advocacy Days 2018 moved our municipal priorities forward. We leave here even better positioned to achieve progress in the upcoming federal budget—and a potentially transformative federal election later in 2019.

Respectfully submitted by:

Josh Morgan
Councillor, Ward 7
Member FCM Board of Directors

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear FCM members,

What a week! This November 20-22, FCM board and committee members took over Parliament Hill. They came from every part of this country, representing communities of all sizes. Altogether, we met with 150 parliamentarians from all national parties. And I was so impressed with how our delegation brought local priorities to the national table.

Through FCM, municipalities have already secured unprecedented federal investments in infrastructure and housing. All week, we showed parliamentarians how to build on what's working—so we can continue planning and delivering results in our communities. Our recommendations focused on longer-term federal support for broadband Internet access, modern public transit and local responses to extreme weather.

We also talked about what's not working. We talked about the challenges of planning and building livable, competitive communities with only 10 cents of Canada's overall tax dollar—and without a full seat at the table among orders of government. And so we kick-started important conversations about modernizing our federal-municipal partnership to get more done for Canadians.

Finally, we made sure Ottawa understands that local leaders are not waiting for next fall's election. We expect to see meaningful progress in the upcoming federal budget. And I know that our federal counterparts—in government and in opposition—have heard us loud and clear.

As FCM members, you are the heart of everything we do. As we prepare for a big year ahead, I thought you would appreciate this overview of our progress at Advocacy Days 2018.

Sincerely,

Vicky-May Hamm Mayor, City of Magog FCM President

PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS

More than 70 FCM board and committee members met with 150 MPs, senators and party leaders, from all the parties—including 24 cabinet ministers and parliamentary secretaries. Many meetings emphasized Budget 2019 priorities, including broadband, transit and disaster mitigation. Others focussed on the achievements of FCM programs, including our new Toward Parity initiative.

As our municipal team brought your priorities to the federal table, they shared one strong message: it's time to modernize our partnership to make Canadians' lives better.

SPECIAL POLITICAL GUESTS

Throughout the week, we invited the three largest national parties to send representatives to address our full delegation. Each shared their vision for building on our partnership to get more done for Canadians. You can watch some of their remarks on FCM's Facebook page.

Dominic LeBlanc: Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Northern Affairs and Internal Trade

- “As municipalities, you serve many of Canadians' most important needs and you are the closest order of government to the realities your citizens are facing.”

Lisa Raitt: Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

- “I have long respected FCM as an agent for progress, as I have long valued your contributions toward policies that improve our communities.”

Jagmeet Singh: Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

- “Municipalities are the fabric of our country. Without you, the Canada of today would not be what it is.”

FOCUS ON BROADBAND: RURAL FORUM HOSTS DAVID LAMETTI

A special session of FCM's Rural Forum featured a frank discussion on achieving universal broadband and mobile Internet access. We were joined by David Lametti, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

BUILDING ON WHAT'S WORKING

Municipalities are vital partners in Canada's success, whether we're growing the economy or keeping people safe. That's why the federal government responded to FCM's call for major new investments that empower us to do more—including a 10-year infrastructure plan and national housing strategy. All week, we showed how Federal Budget 2019 needs to build on what's working, so we can continue planning and delivering the outcomes Canadians deserve—without interruption.

Ensuring reliable Internet for everyone

Reliable broadband and mobile Internet access is essential to business and our quality of life. It's time to build on targeted federal programs with a plan to achieve reliable Internet access for everyone. That means clear standards and timelines to achieve CRTC speed targets in communities of all sizes. And it means long-term federal funding—starting with at least \$400 million per year for a decade.

Building tomorrow's public transit

The 10-year allocation-based federal transit plan is empowering cities to deliver key transit expansions—for shorter commutes, higher productivity and lower emissions. But building the backbone of tomorrow's cities takes decades of planning and delivery. It's time to cement a permanent federal commitment to public transit so we can keep moving forward with confidence on complex projects.

Protecting Canadians from extreme weather

Municipalities work on the front lines of new weather extremes, from floods and fires to coastal surges. New federal investments are helping some municipalities adapt local infrastructure, but building tomorrow's climate-resilient Canada will require robust tools. In the short-term, a two-year, \$2-billion extension to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund will keep vital adaptation work moving.

MODERNIZING OUR PARTNERSHIP

Municipalities make the most of every tool available to strengthen our communities, and new federal investments are helping. But medium-term investments—even historic ones—don't change our long-term reality.

Municipalities are still building tomorrow's Canada with access to 10 cents of the overall tax dollar. We're still doing it without a full seat at the table among orders of government. And we face growing expectations to deliver for Canadians—whether that's implementing legal cannabis or fostering long-term economic growth.

Building on what's working in our federal partnership can only take us so far. To build the strong country that Canadians deserve, we also need to modernize that partnership. At Advocacy Days, we kick-started a dialogue with our federal counterparts on next steps.

Canadians expect all of their governments to work together to improve their daily lives. That's why we've proposed a new mechanism or forum bringing all orders of government together at one table to tackle national challenges—from economic productivity to the opioid crisis.

Modernizing our partnership also means exploring fiscal tools that empower municipalities to get more done. Like the Gas Tax Fund, larger-scale, modern tools will put local governments in the driver's seat. That way, we'll be able to fund the most pressing long-term priorities in our communities—with our trademark efficiency.

What they said:

Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Dominic LeBlanc discussed modernization with our delegation.

On working together: “The challenge for our government is to find the best mechanisms and the best forum ... for an ongoing federal- municipal partnership... It will be a privilege for me to work with your leadership on ensuring we get that aspect right.”

On fiscal tools: “The Gas Tax transfer, frankly, is a model that I think our government ... has come to think has been very effective and should perhaps form the basis of other efforts to help fill up your toolbox.”