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**London**  
CANADA

December 13, 2019

Chair and Members  
Corporate Services Committee

**RE: Report from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting – Ottawa, ON, November 26-29, 2019.**

**OVERVIEW:**

The Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) met from November 26-29, 2019 in Ottawa. FCM is the national voice of local government, with over 2,000 member municipalities representing more than 90 per cent of Canadians. FCM is a member-first organization, advocating for municipal priorities at the federal level and delivering capacity-building tools and programs.

The 2019 November Board meeting included a busy agenda of looking internally and externally to strengthen FCM's voice on the national stage. Internally, the Board will continue its efforts to strengthen its internal governance throughout 2020. Externally, FCM released [\*Building Better Lives Together, First 100 days of federal government: A municipal call to action\*](#). The report offers tangible, short-term initiatives on 15 priorities that the new federal government can move on to strengthen cities and communities and strengthen Canada.

**BOARD SUMMARY:**

Each November, FCM board members convene in Ottawa for its Advocacy Days, an important opportunity to fan out and inform federal officials from all parties of municipal priorities. FCM was able to secure important opportunities with the Prime Minister, and leaders from opposition parties alongside an impressive number of meetings with newly minted Cabinet Ministers throughout the week. FCM's municipal message was amongst the first to be delivered to the new federal government.

The First 100 Days flagship report provides advice to the federal minority government on 15 priority areas, including:

- Strengthening local infrastructure;
- Making housing more affordable;
- Supporting local climate change action; and,
- Modernizing public transit.

With the messages delivered directly to officials from all parties in Ottawa, the focus must now be on carrying on this message into the first budget of the new Liberal government. As the Vice-Chair of the Election Readiness Working Group, I will be directly involved in developing the strategies that will allow the municipal sector to make the most of the opportunities of a minority government in the months ahead.

As a national membership organization, effective governance is critical to FCM's success on the road ahead. The FCM Governance Review Task Force (GRTF) presented recommendations to updating the board structure to reflect an evolving policy, advocacy and program environment in which FCM operates. The key objectives of this review include:

- To strengthen the decision-making process at the board and member level;
- To foster more in-depth policy discussions;

- To reduce barriers to participation;
- To strengthen the regional voice of board members; and,
- To take better advantage of the Big City Mayors' Caucus.

The discussion by board members was extensive and well developed. The GRTF will provide updated recommendations at the March 2020 Board of Directors meeting in St-Hyacinthe, QC.

Finally, long-time FCM CEO Brock Carlton announced his retirement after 12 years in his current role. Brock has overseen the monumental transformation of the municipal sector, leading the municipal charge from the New Deal for Cities and Communities, infrastructure stimulus funding, and the single largest federal investment plan in Canada's history. It has been my pleasure to work with Brock since joining the FCM Board and I can say the impact of his departure will be felt around the country. Fortunately, we will continue to have him at work until the current contract expires in July 2020.

I will continue to keep Council updated on my work on your behalf at FCM.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Josh Morgan  
Councillor, Ward 7  
Member FCM Board of Directors