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May 9, 2022

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee

RE: Report from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting – March 1-4, 2022.

OVERVIEW:

The Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) met virtually from March 1st–4th. 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 2022 March Board meeting included a busy agenda, including many discussions on sector-wide advocacy in advance of the Federal Budget. Many of the FCM advocacy priorities were well reflected in the Federal Budget, released on April 7th, especially related to housing. FCM's response to the budget commends recognition that cities are “an essential partner in solving our greatest national challenges”.

Notable Standing Committee recommendations included progress towards association-wide commitments to equity; adopting standing policy positions related to gender-based violence, emergency response, and other community safety efforts; climate mitigation, zero-emission transit, and energy transition; and affordable housing for seniors.

BOARD SUMMARY:

As the last board meeting before the FCM Annual Conference, the March agenda provided substantial updates on conference planning progress. This year's conference will be held June 2-5th with a hybrid format, with registration options available for either virtual or in-person attendance in Regina, SK. Registration will be open until the conference begins, and the virtual option allows access to session recordings and resources for 30 days after the conference.

The March Board included an update on the work of FCM's newest committee – the Standing Committee on Anti-Racism and Equity (ARE). The ARE Committee presented their initial commitment to equity statement, which will be into a more robust statement to inform how FCM will commit to anti-racism and equity. The current statement reads:

“At all levels of FCM, we commit to purposefully grounding our culture, policies and practices in an intersectional anti-racism and equity lens to challenge issues of race and correct inequities in order to reflect and improve the lives of communities across Canada.”

The ARE Committee also discussed measures to address Islamophobia, and will be looking to the City of London's ongoing work to inform future recommendations for board-level initiatives.

The Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Provention engaged in strategic discussions on mental health, addiction and community wellbeing, sharing different community approaches and opportunities for FCM advocacy at the federal level. The committee also approved the incorporation of expiring FCM resolutions into standing policy, on the following topics: Gender-based Violence, Wildfire Crime, Medical

Cannabis Production and Regulations Pertaining to the Access of Medical Cannabis. The committee also considered and approved two new resolutions on RCMP Body Worn Cameras and Cannabis Knowledge Sharing.

The Standing Committee on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development shared information on community resilience, drawing on recent experiences from communities that had dealt with severe wildfires and flooding. The committee also recommended the adoption of five standing policy items related to: federal climate change adaptation funding and support for regional disaster mitigation and flood planning; funding for small communities for flood prevention; zero emission buses and municipal fleet vehicles; federal support for energy infrastructure; and a streamlined process for sediment management.

Updates were provided from the Standing Committee on Social Economic Development on FCM's work related to affordable housing, ending chronic homelessness, municipal-indigenous relations, and anti-racism. The Committee also discussed advocacy related to the federal Housing Accelerator Fund (a proposed federal initiative that was subsequently detailed in the federal budget) as well as the results of the National Housing Supply Summit that took place in late-February.

FCM also highlighted communities that were selected for CanWILL funding, which supports municipalities and regions that are working in collaboration with local partners to help women (with a particular focus on Indigenous, Black, racialized, youth and members of the LGBTQ2S+ community) run for office or remain in leadership positions in local government. Projects that were selected included the Middlesex County Women's Caucus' *Increasing Women's Participation in Local Government* project, in partnership with the Dorchester and District Lions Club and the London Middlesex Immigration Program.

We will continue to keep Council updated on our work on your behalf at FCM.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Member FCM Board of Directors



Maureen Cassidy
Councillor, Ward 5
Member of FCM Committees