

## **Environmental Pricing Reform: Building the Financial Foundation for Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal –**

Date and time: Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 11:30am

Room: Oak Bay

Moderator: Chris Coleman, Councillor, City of Victoria

### *Introduction:*

Good morning, my name is Chris Coleman, Councillor for the City of Victoria and I will be your moderator for this session.

I would like to welcome you all to this session on Environmental Pricing Reform – Building the Financial Foundations for Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal. Most of you are aware that the Federal Government has put forward proposed regulations on the treatment of municipal wastewater in Canada. This regulation has major implications for municipal governments, since they own and or operate most of these systems. This, in addition to the existing \$123 billion dollar deficit means that municipalities will need new and creative ways to finance infrastructure spending even in a context where this is support from higher orders of government.

Our speakers today include – Shannon Joseph, Policy Advisor for the FCM, David Thompson, Director of Sustainable Communities at Sustainable Prosperity and Councillor Berry Vrbanovic of the City of Kitchener - they will provide a path forward on these issues and provide examples of successful strategies.

Just as a matter of “housekeeping” - Our plan for this session will be to go through all the presentations and have an extended question and discussion period at the end.

### *First presentation:*

I'd first like to give the floor to Shannon Joseph – Ms. Joseph is a Policy Advisor to FCM on environmental issues and has been managing the federal wastewater regulations file. She is an environmental engineer by training and prior to her role as policy advisor at FCM she worked in program development for FCM's Green Municipal Fund and as a project manager for the engineering consulting firm Queformat Ltd. Her postgraduate research in water resource engineering focused on contaminant event detection in drinking water.

### *Second presentation:*

Thank you Shannon – our second presenter is David Thompson -

Mr. Thompson is Director of Sustainable Communities for Sustainable Prosperity. He co-authored Sustainable Prosperity's “Smart Budget: A Background Paper on Environmental Pricing Reform for Local Governments,” and was the principal researcher for “The Smart Budget Toolkit”. He has also prepared briefing documents on EPR for the City of Edmonton and the Toronto City Summit

Alliance. He has worked as a lawyer in government and in the civil society sector, in management, as a small business owner, and as a researcher and organizational development consultant. He has postgraduate degrees in law and environmental economics.

*Third presentation:*

Thank you David – now finally I would like to turn the floor over to Councillor Berry Vrabanovic.

Councillor Vrabanovic represents the Chicopee Grand River Ward for the City of Kitchener, where he has served his constituents and the residents of Kitchener as whole, since he was first elected to council in 1994. With over 20 years of experience in both the public and private sectors he has a history of active involvement and community leadership. Councillor Vrabanovic is also a member of the FCM board of directors, where he has held numerous positions including: Chair of the Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Chair of the Standing Committee on International Relations, and Chair of the Ontario Caucus. He is currently FCM's 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president.

*Discussion period:*

Thank you Berry – I would now like to open the floor for questions. Please line up at the microphones located (location 1) and (location 2). I would ask that you identify who you are before you ask you question and if possible to identify the speaker you would like a response from.

(Discussion until 11:30)