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FÉDÉRATION
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REPORT TO COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOVEMBER 21–25, 2016

Ottawa, Ontario



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Meeting FCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS November 21-25, 2016

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SUMMARY

The FCM Board of Directors met in Ottawa from November 21-25. Board members continued their work addressing municipal issues during Regional Caucus meetings, Standing Committee and Forum meetings, the Committee of the Whole and the Board meeting. The details of those discussions are presented in the Committee reports that follow.

This meeting also saw the return of FCM's Advocacy Days on Parliament Hill. As likely the last Board meeting before the design of Phase 2 of the federal infrastructure plan is completed, the Board used this year's Advocacy Days as an opportunity to relay key municipal priorities to Members of Parliament and Senators. Those priorities include streamlining significant Phase 2 funding as predictable allocations; modernizing cost-sharing arrangements and dedicating much of the Phase 2 Social Infrastructure Fund to Canada's housing affordability crisis.

FCM's delegation held 190 meetings with parliamentarians from every party and every region—far more than previous Advocacy Days. Board and committee members also met with 14 cabinet ministers, including Finance Minister Bill Morneau, Transport Minister Marc Garneau and Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr. Minister Morneau gave a keynote speech to the Board, as did Infrastructure and Communities Minister Amarjeet Sohi, Opposition Leader Rona Ambrose and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair. Liberal Rural Caucus Chair Mike Bossio addressed FCM's Rural Forum.

Noting the timely and urgent nature of this meeting, Board members were encouraged to continue these important conversations in their communities ahead of Federal Budget 2017. They heard about the importance of remaining focused and engaged in order to keep municipal priorities at the forefront of the national agenda, while ensuring that Phase 2 works for municipalities.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Pauline Quinlan opened the meeting by welcoming the committee to Ottawa, and introducing Vice-Chairs Paul Pirri and Edgar Rouleau. Roundtable introductions of committee members followed.

Following the approval of the agenda and the report of the September 2016 meeting, staff provided an update on Phase 2 of the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan, including the increased investment in Phase 2 unveiled in the fall economic update. Relevant to the Committee priorities, staff noted that the net increase for Phase 2 Green Infrastructure resulting from the fall economic update is \$7 billion over 11 years.

Chair Quinlan then facilitated a roundtable discussion where Committee members shared what was discussed at the Advocacy Day meetings with Senators and Members of Parliament in which they had participated.

Staff then provided an update on both the policy priorities and government relations activities relevant to the Committee. This included brief updates on the federal legislative reviews of the Fisheries and Navigation Protection Acts; climate change; carbon pricing; and the federal government's recently unveiled Transportation 2030 plan.

Following, an update on the work of the National Zero Waste Council was provided by staff and Councillor Bob Long, who is also a member of the National Zero Waste Council Board. Committee members learned of an opportunity to sit on the Management Board of the National Zero Waste Council, as a position reserved for FCM was recently vacated. Councillor Brian Pincott was unanimously nominated to fill this position on behalf of the Committee.

Next, Vice-Chair Rouleau shared with the Committee that FCM had provided a submission to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, on the basis of the submission components recommended by the Committee at its September 2016 meeting. A substantive discussion then followed on the carbon pricing considerations included in the submission.

Following, Councillor Ben Henderson, who is also the Council Chair of the Green Municipal Fund (GMF), provided an update on the status of negotiations with the federal government on the \$125M top up to GMF, as well recent developments on the new FCM climate change program, now titled the Municipal Climate Innovation Program.

The Committee then discussed the federal review of the Navigation Protection Act. They subsequently recommended four principles which will provide the basis of FCM's written submission to the Navigation Protection Act review process being led by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

Vice-Chair Pirri then let the Committee know that the federal government has revised the timeline and scope of its review of the National Energy Board (NEB), noting in particular that the review now has a deadline of February 17, 2017 for stakeholder input. Accordingly, the

Committee recommended that FCM use the extended timeline to develop a comprehensive submission to the Minister of Natural Resources, who is responsible for the review, which will outline how the NEB consultation process can be reformed to give local government a greater voice, and how municipal interests can be adequately considered in the construction, operation and decommissioning of federally-regulated pipelines. The Committee will review a draft submission by conference call in January 2017, on the basis of receiving the draft report at least one week before the conference call in order to ensure adequate time for review.

Staff then outlined the status of the federal government's review of the Fisheries Act. Further, staff outlined four recommendations for the Committee's consideration, which were proposed as the basis of a written submission from FCM pursuant to the review. The recommendations were supported by the Committee, along with two additional recommendations, and a request to deliver the submission in a face-to-face presentation. The Committee also directed staff to engage in the second phase of the Fisheries Act consultation process and respond to any legislative options proposed by the government prior to the tabling of new legislation, which is anticipated as part of the second phase.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Recommend Councillor Brian Pincott to participate on the Management Board of the National Zero Waste Council;
2. Approve the following principles as the basis of FCM's submission to the Navigation Protection Act review process;
 - a. Full consideration of municipal impacts;
 - b. Improving the process to extend the application of the Act to additional bodies of water;
 - c. Support for local implementation and compliance; and
 - d. Full participation of municipal partners in the review process.
3. Building on the work of the final report of the National Municipal Energy Infrastructure Task Force, direct staff to develop a comprehensive submission to the Minister of Natural Resources regarding the review of the National Energy Board (NEB) focused on how the NEB consultation process can be reformed to give local government a greater voice, and how municipal interests can be adequately considered in the construction, operation and decommissioning of federally-regulated pipelines;
4. Direct staff to ensure appropriate time for the Standing Committee on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development to review and provide direction on the draft submission by organizing a conference call in January 2017, in order for them to provide a recommendation to the FCM Executive Committee so that FCM input to the National Energy Board (NEB) review can be provided by the federal deadline of February 17, 2017;
5. Approve a submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans regarding the 2012/2013 amendments to the Fisheries Act that contains the following recommended objectives for a legislative review;
 - a. Supports reforms to the Fisheries Act that reduce duplication, streamline the process for small, low-risk projects, remove unnecessary and costly administrative burdens on municipalities; and better equip authorities to enforce environmental protection;
 - b. ensures that the discretionary powers granted to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans' to exempt application of the law do not undermine environmental considerations or other municipal concerns;

- c. seeks greater clarity around the determination of “serious harm” caused to a fishery to ensure that the definition used, adequately protects fish habitats;
 - d. examines the issue of projects that individually may have a small environmental impact, but cumulatively may cause serious harm to fish;
 - e. clarifies how the federal government intends to evaluate the extent of the “serious harm” given the legislation provides that any person or entity referred to has the duty to take all reasonable measures to mitigate the “serious harm”. The extent of what constitutes “reasonable measures” should also be clarified; and
 - f. improves coordination (one-window approach) between federal departments and provincial ministries to ensure coherence between environmental protection regulations.
- 6. Direct staff to engage in the second phase of the Fisheries Act consultation process and respond to any legislative options proposed by the government prior to the tabling of new legislation; and
 - 7. Direct staff to use whatever means possible to ensure FCM provides a face-to-face presentation on the forthcoming Fisheries Act submission.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Sav Dhaliwal opened the meeting by welcoming committee members to Ottawa, introducing Vice-Chair Sandra Desmeules and bringing regrets from Vice-Chair Doug Dobrowolski.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the September 2016 meeting, members were updated on Phase 2 of the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan. Staff presented an analysis of the federal government's 2016 Fall Economic Update and took questions from members. The committee discussed the potential benefits and impacts of an infrastructure bank on municipalities. FCM has been supportive of the infrastructure bank concept. FCM is working to ensure that the financing available through the bank not replace infrastructure funding, that using an infrastructure bank remain the choice of local governments, and that municipalities be a key part of the discussions on its design.

The committee then had a roundtable discussion on the Advocacy Days meetings held during the week. Members underlined that these meetings were a good opportunity to strengthen and build new relationships, as well as to reinforce FCM's key messages regarding Phase 2 Infrastructure design and delivery. The committee stressed the importance of sharing FCM's key message of long-term predictable funding for infrastructure project funding. The committee heard that in meetings with government MPs and Ministers, the federal government was encouraged by the positive partnership that FCM is creating with the government.

Staff then provided an update of the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last committee meeting. Staff outlined progress on key policy areas of interest to the Committee, including international trade and investment attraction, infrastructure financing, Canada Post and payments in lieu of taxes.

Committee members were then updated on FCM's participation in the Canada Post Review. FCM has continued to advocate for municipal consultation in changes to Canada Post services, as well as recommending that Canada Post consider integrating postal banking into their services in select under-served remote communities. The committee was also updated on the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision on rights-of-way management. FCM now awaits the decision of Hamilton City Council on a possible appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Staff then provided an update on the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The agreement has been signed and is now in the process of being ratified. Staff updated the committee on a request to explore the impact of CETA on social procurement from the September meeting. Additional information on the agreement and on social procurement will be shared with the committee as it becomes available.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Randy Goulden opened the meeting by welcoming the committee to Ottawa, and introducing Vice-Chairs Linda Rydholm and Marie-Eve Brunet.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the September 2016 meeting, members were updated on Phase 2 of the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan. Staff presented an analysis of the federal government's 2016 Fall Economic Update.

The committee then had a roundtable discussion of the Advocacy Days meetings held during the week. These meetings were an opportunity to strengthen relationships and reinforce FCM's key messages regarding Phase 2 Infrastructure design and delivery. Members discussed the progress made on FCM's priorities and the additional engagement work that needs to be done to secure investments in municipal infrastructure and public safety and crime prevention measures as part of Phase 2.

Staff then provided an update on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last committee meeting. Staff outlined progress on key policy areas of interest to the committee, including RCMP labour relations, rail safety and emergency management. Committee members discussed the importance of municipal consultation in the design and implementation of the marijuana legalization framework and requested additional information on FCM's engagement with the federal government on this issue.

Committee members were then updated on the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group's engagement on possible funding options for first responder training and equipment. Members emphasized the importance of ensuring first responders, particularly volunteer firefighters, are adequately resourced to respond to dangerous goods incidents in their communities.

The committee heard a presentation by senior officials from Public Safety Canada on the department's Emergency Management Plan. The committee provided feedback on the emergency management issues that are critical to municipalities.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Vice-Chair Tom Taggart opened the meeting by welcoming committee members to Ottawa and bringing regrets from both the Chair of the committee, Councillor Brian Pincott, as well as Vice-Chair Councillor Pam McConnell.

Following the approval of the agenda and the report of the September 2016 meeting, staff provided an update on Phase 2 of the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan, including the increased investment in Phase 2 unveiled in the fall economic update. Relevant to the Committee priorities, staff noted that the net increase for Phase 2 Social Infrastructure resulting from the fall economic update is \$5.3 billion over 11 years.

The Committee then held a roundtable discussion on the Advocacy Days meetings held during the week.

Staff then provided an update on both the policy priorities and government relations activities relevant to the Committee. This included brief updates on housing and homelessness; accessibility and persons with disabilities; urban indigenous policy and First Nation-Municipal government relations.

Vice-Chair Taggart then let the Committee know that FCM had provided a submission to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs on the federal Urban Aboriginal Strategy, based on the components of the submission approved by the Committee at its September 2016 meeting.

Staff then presented an update on FCM's submission on the National Housing Strategy currently being developed by the federal government. The committee also heard an update on FCM's engagement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada regarding Syrian refugees.

Dallas Alderson presented an overview of the federal government's plans to consult on, and develop, a Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Committee recommended staff engage in the consultation process pursuant to the strategy in order to ensure municipal considerations are appropriately reflected in the eventual strategy, as well as to develop a more comprehensive set of recommendations.

Following, the Committee heard about the federal government's consideration of accessibility legislation from Tim Stiles. The Committee then recommended staff to engage in the accessibility consultation being led by the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities.

Lastly, the Committee learned about an opportunity for a Committee member to participate as a Governance Representative on FCM's Municipal Community Infrastructure Partnership Program (CIPP) and the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI). More information on this opportunity will be forthcoming to Committee members in the coming weeks by email.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Direct staff to engage in the Poverty Reduction Strategy consultation process being led by Minister Duclos in order to ensure municipal considerations are appropriately reflected in the eventual strategy;
2. Direct staff to develop a more comprehensive set of recommendations that advance the municipal perspective with regard to the planned Poverty Reduction Strategy; and
3. Direct staff to engage in the accessibility consultation being led by Minister Qualtrough in order to ensure municipal considerations are appropriately reflected in the development of federal accessibility legislation.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Committee Chair Bob Long opened the meeting by welcoming committee members to Ottawa, and introducing Vice-Chair Anne Marie Gillis and Vice-Chair David Price.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the September 2016 meeting, members were updated on Phase 2 of the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan. Staff presented an analysis of the federal government's 2016 Fall Economic Statement and the federal government's commitment to additional investments in public transit, trade and transportation, social and green infrastructure.

The committee then had a roundtable discussion of the Advocacy Days meetings held during the week. This was an opportunity for members to share their experience and any feedback from their meetings with MPs. Members discussed how municipal leaders can better engage Parliamentarians on FCM's rural-specific priorities.

Staff then provided an update on the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last committee meeting. Staff outlined progress on key policy areas of interest to the Committee, including infrastructure, public transit, asset management and transportation issues. Members discussed the progress made on securing additional investments for municipal infrastructure and the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group's advocacy on improving the safe transportation of dangerous goods. In particular, members were updated on FCM's efforts to secure additional funding for grade crossing improvements. Staff also updated members on the design and roll-out of FCM's new Municipal Asset Management Program.

The committee heard a presentation by staff on the Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF). Members discussed the benefits of this type of funding model and how FCM advocates for allocation-based transfer funding programs, modelled on the GTF.

Staff then provided an update on the Phase 2 Public Transit funding model. Members discussed how Phase 2 can help support improvements to existing transit systems and projects that grow ridership. The Committee also discussed how the Canadian Infrastructure Bank could possibly complement these investments in public transit infrastructure while respecting local discretion on the use of public-private partnerships and other procurement models.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RURAL FORUM

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Forum Chair Ray Orb opened the meeting by welcoming forum members to Ottawa, and introducing Vice-Chair Scott Pearce and Vice-Chair Al Kemmere.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the September 2016 meeting, members were updated on Phase 2 of the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan. Staff presented an analysis of the federal government's 2016 Fall Economic Update and the proposed infrastructure fund for rural and northern communities. Members discussed how FCM can work with the federal government to ensure all components of Phase 2 can address rural-specific priorities.

The forum then had a roundtable discussion of the Advocacy Days meetings held during the week. This was an opportunity for members to share their experience and any feedback from their meetings with MPs. Members emphasized in their discussions with MPs that federal programs and policies should accommodate the needs and perspectives of rural communities.

Staff then provided an update of the advocacy efforts of FCM leadership and staff since the last forum meeting. Staff outlined progress on key policy areas of interest to the forum, including securing additional funding for municipal infrastructure and grade crossing upgrades. Members were invited to participate in the ad-hoc working group on rural-specific conference programming in preparation for the 2017 Annual Conference.

Staff provided an update to the Forum on FCM's participation in the Canada Post review and on the Court of Appeal for Ontario decision in the dispute between the City of Hamilton and Canada Post Corporation regarding right-of-way bylaws.

The forum then heard a presentation by Mike Bossio, MP, Chair of the National Rural Caucus. Mr. Bossio outlined his government's vision for infrastructure investments and gave the forum an opportunity to discuss how FCM can work with the federal government on the design and roll-out of Phase 2. The Forum discussed future opportunities for partnership, including the renewal of the federal government's Rural Secretariat and additional support for rural broadband. After the presentation, the Rural Forum passed a motion calling on FCM to support Mr. Bossio's efforts to develop a federal Rural Secretariat that supports decisionmakers in developing rural-specific policy and programs.

FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum recommends this report be received.

1. Work with the Chair of the National Rural Caucus to support their pursuit of creation of a Rural Secretariat.

The Forum recommends this report be received.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Forum Chair Diana Rogerson opened the meeting by welcoming Forum members to Ottawa, and introducing Vice-Chair Jeannie Ehaloak. The Chair brought the regrets of Vice-Chair Charles Furlong.

Following approval of the agenda and the report of the September 2016 meeting, members were updated on Phase 2 of the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan, including the enhanced and targeted infrastructure funding for Northern and rural communities committed as part of the fall economic statement.

The Forum then held a roundtable discussion further to the Advocacy Days meetings held during the week. This was an opportunity for Forum members to communicate feedback from the meetings with MPs and Senators in which they participated. Forum members emphasized the value of the meetings, although suggested that, in future, meetings are sought with Parliamentarians engaged in issues relevant to the Forum and those who are unfamiliar with FCM.

Staff outlined progress and updates on priority issues for the Forum, including the National Housing Strategy; the federal government's Transportation 2030 plan; climate change and the environment; and carbon pricing.

Staff then provided information to the Forum on Navigation Canada's proposed decommissioning of non-directional beacons, which is a particularly important issue in the North where access to airports is essential. At this time, it is understood that the decommissioning will only take place where replacement technology is available, and that the associated costs will be borne by the federal government.

Following, the Northern components of FCM's submission to the federal government pursuant to their development of a National Housing Strategy was highlighted. It was noted that the recently released federal "what we heard" report, which summarizes the input received as part of the federal consultation on the National Housing Strategy, included a specific section on Northern housing needs, including reference to the input provided to federal officials at the September 2016 meeting of the Forum.

Lastly, Forum members discussed considerations for the design of Phase 2 infrastructure programs, including the need to retain the federal cost-share portion at 75 per cent, at minimum. The Forum then directed staff to pursue further work in this area, in particular by working with the provincial and territorial municipal associations.

FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Direct staff to engage northern and remote member municipalities on design considerations for Phase 2 infrastructure programs focused on:
 - a. Identification of common needs;
 - b. Support for northern capacity development and cost realities; and
 - c. Identification of emerging opportunities.

The Forum recommends this report be received.

REPORT THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Councillor Garth Frizzell introduced Vice-Chair Councillor Bev Esslinger and welcomed committee members, FCM staff and partners from Burkina Faso, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Bolivia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Haiti. The committee approved the agenda and the minutes from the September 2016 Board of Directors' meeting in Oakville.

The Committee received an update by FCM Program's Senior Director, Sebastien Hamel on the work plan of FCM's International Relations Framework. He outlined the rationale for the merger of FCM's international and domestic programs under one department with the aim of creating more opportunities for collaboration and to strengthen FCM's engagement with members in its programs. In the coming months, FCM will continue to work to complete the planned activities, including preparing for FCM's 30th anniversary in 2017 with the aim of strengthening communication with members and Canadian stakeholders involved in international cooperation.

As part of Advocacy Days, FCM met with the Parliamentary Secretaries for Foreign Affairs, Trade and International Development and La Francophonie. In addition to FCM's key messages on the second phase of the government's infrastructure plan, FCM delegates conveyed the recommendations outlined in FCM's submission to the Government of Canada's International Assistance Review. FCM's submission recommended that Canada's international assistance should reflect the following: 1) that Canada pay particular attention to urbanisation and the high proportion of the poor who are living in urban areas; 2) that governance focus on decentralisation and capacity building support for local governments as a way to address these thematic priorities; and 3) include a goal of strengthening innovative strategic partnerships with key Canadian sectors, including with Canadian municipalities. The key messages were well received and FCM will further the conversations with Members of Parliament in the coming months.

FCM's Director, Program Development, Michael Wodzicki, presented information on the recently approved programs in Jordan and South Africa, which are both under contractual discussions with Global Affairs Canada. The South Africa program will aim to implement local economic development and asset management policies that reduce poverty for vulnerable groups and help mitigate and/or adapt to climate change within targeted municipalities in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. The goals of the Jordan program are to strengthen the leadership and administrative capacity of Jordanian municipalities and improve effectiveness of waste management services. Following the inception periods, FCM plans to engage approximately a dozen municipalities in the Jordan program and another 6 municipalities in South Africa. The committee will receive an update on these programs at the next meeting.

The committee received reports from the SCIR Governance Representatives on the progress of the current programs. Amongst the program updates, the committee welcomed the participation of program staff from the FCM field office in Haiti, who described the effects of Hurricane Matthew in the Région des Palmes, where FCM is currently implementing the Haiti-Municipal Cooperation Program (MCP). In October, FCM launched an emergency fund to help support small scale programs in the Région des Palmes, which, to date, has reached over \$18,000. The members of FCM's Board of Directors are encouraged to promote their communities of the emergency fund. Further, the committee asked staff to undertake a mission to scope out the potential for a full-scale reconstruction program in the areas most affected by the hurricane.

FCM will celebrate its 30th anniversary of international cooperation programming in 2017. During the Government of Canada's International Development Week (February 5-11, 2017),

FCM will launch its 30th anniversary celebrations. Throughout the year, FCM will focus the activities on building awareness amongst its membership. Activities will be organized from February to November during FCM meetings, including its annual conference, and at the municipal level. FCM will also explore opportunities to collaborate, particularly during International Development Week, with other organizations to showcase Canada's international cooperation efforts.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation for referral to staff:

1. Mandate staff to undertake a mission to affected areas in Haiti in order to evaluate the potential for a project to support local government officials better play their coordination role during this emergency phase and the reconstruction period that will start soon.

Recommendations for adoption:

1. FCM continue to encourage Canadian municipalities to donate to the Fund established by FCM to help the Haitian communities deeply affected by Hurricane Matthew in October.

The Standing Committee recommends that this report be received.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The Committee Chair Chris Fonseca, Regional Councillor, Region of Peel, ON, introduced the Councillor Darren Hill and Councillor Irene Dawson as the Vice-Chairs and welcomed committee members and staff. The committee approved the agenda and the minutes from the September 2016 Board of Directors' meeting in Oakville.

The committee members shared information from their meetings on Parliament Hill related to the priorities of the committee. Councillor Tim Tierney had the opportunity to speak with MP Anita Vandenberg, a member of the Standing Committee on Status of Women, who would welcome the opportunity to speak to the committee during FCM's Annual Conference in June 2017. Councillor Bev Esslinger talked about her meeting with MP Karina Gould during which Councillor Esslinger talked about the work being done to engage 56 women in Edmonton to prepare for the municipal election next year. The committee also discussed the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and requested FCM prepare a statement to show its support for this day as it supports eliminating barriers against women in Canada and around the world.

Vice-Chair Darren Hill presented some of the election results from the recent Saskatchewan municipal election. He explained that for the first time ever, the City of Saskatoon's council is made up of more women than men. He also congratulated Board of Directors members from Saskatchewan who were successful in being re-elected and noted the loss of former Weyburn mayor, Debra Button. The committee asked that staff prepare a letter thanking Ms. Button for her time on the committee and involvement in FCM's international work. Following the discussion on the elections, Vice-Chairs Hill and Dawson updated the committee on the priority areas of the committee. At the direction of the committee, FCM staff reviewed different ways to strengthen the communication in support of the Regional Champions program, and will make more effort to share stories from members on their work to increase women's participation as well as strengthen lines of communication on the Regional Champions and scholarships and awards. Committee members also received an update from FCM's 2nd Vice-President Sylvie Goneau her involvement in a session focused on local elected women during the World Congress of the United Cities and Local Governments in October.

Elena Pierce, Governance, Policy and Networks Advisor presented the committee with a memo on the implications of increasing the Committee's goal of 30 percent representation of women elected to local government to 50 percent by 2026. It has been recommended that it go back to staff for further analysis to better inform the discussion of the revision to the policy statement in March. Committee members were welcomed to participate in a task group to review the policy statement prior to the next meeting.

FCM's Director, Program Development, Michael Wodzicki, provided committee members with an update on discussions with Status of Women on national gender programming. FCM will explore opportunities to lay the foundation for a strategic long-term program to support a municipal sector wide approach to increasing women's participation in municipal government. Committee members will receive more information at the meeting in March.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. The United Nations has designated November 25th the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to physical and sexual violence. Direct staff to prepare a statement of support for the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women outlining the work of FCM to promote gender equality.

Recommendations for referral to staff:

1. Direct staff to prepare a letter on behalf of the committee to thank former Weyburn mayor, Debra Button, for her involvement in FCM's Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government and in its international programs.
2. Direct staff to further analyze the implications of increasing the 30% target in the policy statement to 50% by 2026 and report back in March.