

EXCHANGE



FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES - INTERNATIONAL



AUTUMN 2017 | VOLUME 1 | NUMBER 8

CHANGING LIVES BY FOCUSING ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Women are making gains locally and creating change globally. This issue of FCMI Exchange puts a spotlight on these actions by looking at some special projects as well as [FCM resources](#). We begin by remembering Pam McConnell, a true pioneer who was instrumental in increasing women's participation in municipal government in Canada and internationally.

This issue shows that the work to strengthen women's engagement is gaining momentum—in [Peru](#), [Ukraine](#), [South Africa](#), [Haiti](#), [Canada](#) and with global organizations such as the [United Nations](#) and [United Cities and Local Governments](#).

REMEMBERING PAM MCCONNELL

In July, FCM lost one of its greatest advocates for gender equality and inclusive local governments with the passing of Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell of Toronto, Ontario. Pam McConnell was a credit to her city and to the international municipal movement through her great efforts to improve the lives of citizens during her many years of service in local government and through her participation in FCM.

As an FCM Board member, Pam helped shape the direction of FCM's programs and policies to support inclusive communities in Canada and abroad. Among her many contributions, Pam took on the role as the first Chair of FCM's Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government, initiated campaigns to elect more women to municipal office across the country, and was a vocal advocate for the poor and for affordable housing.



She was instrumental in shaping the gender programming delivered through FCM in Ukraine, including helping to establish a gender equality committee of the Association of Ukrainian Cities. Her work extended to international municipal networks, such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). Pam believed that organizations like FCM and UCLG connected women struggling to challenge their democratic deficit and united everyone in solidarity and strength.

FCM International programs are undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.



Global Affairs Canada

Affaires mondiales Canada



Want to be added to the FCMI Exchange distribution list? Email us at fcminternational@fcm.ca



www.fcm.ca/international



FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES / FEDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES MUNICIPALITÉS



SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

WALKING THE TALK: INCREASING WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FCM's actions to advance gender equality in Canada

In 2003, FCM launched its Task Force on Issues for Canadian Women in Municipal Government and conducted a national scoping exercise to learn more about the barriers facing women who wish to run for municipal office, and find ways to overcome those barriers.

The findings were clear: women were under-represented in municipal practices across Canada and losing ground to other countries. The 2004 report and toolkit, *Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Decision Making: Strategies for More Inclusive Canadian Communities*, released new research and recommendations and was accompanied that same year by *A City Tailored to Women: The Role of Municipal Governments in Achieving Gender Equality*.

In 2005, FCM created the Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government to continue the work of the task force. FCM launched a national mobilization tour and workshops to highlight the need to have more women elected to local government. At the time, Canada was experiencing a serious democratic deficit: women made up only

21% of officials elected to municipal government. Federally, Canada ranked 43rd out of 187 countries, again at 21%.

FCM has implemented programs since then to increase women's participation in local government:

- [Election Campaign Schools](#)
- [Getting to 30%: Lessons Learned](#)
- [Protégé Youth Mentor Program](#)
- [Head Start for Young Women](#)

What's next? FCM's latest program, *Diverse Voices for Change*, seeks to increase the number of women from diverse communities who are actively informed by, and engaged in, local government decision-making.

Each year, FCM offers awards and scholarships to outstanding women in municipal politics:

- The Ann MacLean Award celebrates the contribution of women who have previously served as municipal politicians
- The Mayor Andrée Boucher Memorial Scholarship encourages female students in college or university in their studies of women in politics. [The next deadline is December 15.](#)

PLEDDG SUPPORTS WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN UKRAINE

The [Partnership for Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance](#) (PLEDDG) is working with the municipality of Rivne, in Western Ukraine to encourage women to become leaders in the local economy. Nearly 200 women from the Rivne region are accessing PLEDDG-led training to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to start their own businesses, manage growth, or access business leadership roles. Participants benefit from mentorship by women leaders in Rivne's business, political and cultural sectors.

PLEDDG's goal is to provide training to 300 women, and to see at least 30 of them launch their own businesses.



FCM International programs are undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.



Global Affairs Canada

Affaires mondiales Canada



Want to be added to the FCMI Exchange distribution list? Email us at fcminternational@fcm.ca



www.fcm.ca/international



FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES MUNICIPALITÉS



SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN PERU

Empowering women is a priority for FCM's *Sustainable and Inclusive Communities in Latin America* initiative. In October, four municipalities of Cusco, Peru, hosted a delegation of Canadian municipal experts from Fort St. John, British Columbia to share how women are being included in the LED of the Peruvian region.

The Fort St. John team, led by Mayor Lori Ackerman, gave a workshop to the Association of Women Councillors and Authorities of Chumbivilcas, Cusco, to provide skills for solving community problems and to offer leadership strategies. Eighteen women leaders from the province discussed their experiences, challenges and opportunities.

As part of the technical mission, Mayor Ackerman; Moira Green, Manager of Strategic Services of Fort St. John; and Janine North, an LED expert from Fort St. John, visited social projects funded by the CISAL Fund, a technical assistance mechanism. The projects aim to strengthen capacities of four women's associations benefitting more than 3 150 women in the region.

Mayor Ackerman said the women leaders supported each other and were adamant about making progress on issues impacting



their communities, such as domestic violence. "It is an absolute pleasure to see their successes through the projects they are leading. From our perspective, they may be small projects, but they are very significant in the lives of the recipients," she said.

In February 2017, Mayor Ackerman signed a collaborative work agreement with the mayors of Chumbivilcas to work on strengthening LED planning and the inclusion of women in municipal development processes. Next year, Fort St. John will host a study tour to strengthen women's participation and associations in communities in Colombia and Peru.

DIVERSE VOICES FOR CHANGE

The Diverse Voices for Change initiative works to increase the number of women from all economic, social and cultural backgrounds that are active in local government decision-making.

Over the past year, in FCM's partner municipalities—Halifax (NS), Montreal (QC), Edmonton (AB), London (ON), and Sioux Lookout (ON)—nearly 200 women from urban indigenous, immigrant and racialized communities participated in focus groups, workshops and webinars.

Topics ranged from life as an elected official to civic engagement and strategy development. "There's always the feeling of disconnect on the part of the public towards political leadership positions, so being in the same room as a councillor, addressing our issues and concerns on what the job entails, is meaningful to me," said participant Giselle General of Edmonton.

The focus groups and workshops have sparked innovative projects and are generating immediate action: in Edmonton and Montreal, several women who participated in the focus groups and workshops decided to run for municipal office.

To get the latest on Diverse Voices for Change, [like our Facebook page](#).

FCM International programs are undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.



Global Affairs Canada

Affaires mondiales Canada



Want to be added to the FCM Exchange distribution list? Email us at fcminternational@fcm.ca



www.fcm.ca/international



FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES MUNICIPALITÉS



SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

BUILDING INCLUSIVE GREEN MUNICIPALITIES

Despite a progressive constitution and 23 years of democratic rule, South Africa remains one of the most unequal societies in the world: almost 40% of the population lives on less than \$2.50/day and official unemployment is 25.5%, with unemployment amongst youth at 49.9%.

In response, South Africa's national government, through its Vision 2030 National Development Plan, prioritized investing in building inclusive local economies that are environmentally sustainable to catalyze the country's economic growth, create opportunities for youth and reduce poverty.

The Eastern Cape is one of the largest labour-sending areas for the mining industry, which means most households are women-led while men seek employment in other regions. Women face the triple challenge of unemployment, inequality and poverty, a gender-imbalanced situation that drives them to low-paying jobs. Although agriculture and tourism are significant economic stimulators, many women have little or no access to employment as they often lack the skills to participate in the economy and find themselves labouring in informal markets with few prospects of advancement.



FCM's Building Inclusive Green Municipalities (BIGM) project in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) is working to change this picture. Recent visits have given BIGM partners the opportunity to engage with women working in various backgrounds. While some are active in arts and crafts, agriculture, and lead small businesses, market challenges still exist. BIGM saw a pressing need for facilitating entrepreneurial skills and knowledge development, creating initiatives to increase networking opportunities, and providing access to markets and funding opportunities.

"The women entrepreneurs I observed in Mbizana demonstrate that in business, too much capital may lead to bad decisions; but their constraints allowed them to be innovative and come up with different solutions. [During the visits] they looked around and saw that a problem they were facing just might be a need in the community," said Bill Dakin from the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc.

WOMEN OF HAITI MAKE ELECTORAL GAINS

A joint initiative of FCM, the City of Montreal and the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ), the Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Program (MCP) seeks to bolster the capacities of three national federations of locally elected officials by fostering sustainable, transparent and participatory management techniques.

During the last election cycle, the women of Haiti made massive gains within local government bodies, including within partner federations. Women now account for 30% of the elected staff within Haiti's local authorities and this new reality calls for inclusive governance that serves and engages *all* citizens.



To support the federations through this transition, MCP is coaching a dozen trainers in conducting gender-based analyses (GBA) to ensure gender-based issues are considered within core activities carried out by the federations and their departmental associations—activities such as preparing budgets, annual activity plans and reports, communication tools, and awareness activities. With time, these trainers will progressively integrate the principle of equality into all decisions taken by local authorities.

FCM International programs are undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.



Global Affairs Canada

Affaires mondiales Canada



Want to be added to the FCMI Exchange distribution list? Email us at fcminternational@fcm.ca



www.fcm.ca/international



FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES MUNICIPALITÉS



SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA



ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH SDG 5

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be achieved, or fail, in municipalities—where jobs are created, and poverty is alleviated through integrated planning and social inclusion. Municipalities are where people live and grow families. Inclusive, sustainable, safe and resilient communities create inclusive, sustainable, safe and resilient countries.

FCM, in collaboration with international municipal organizations, is an advocate for international recognition regarding the role of local governments as key stakeholders in development. Since 2013, FCM has contributed to multi-stakeholder discussions as a member of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, chaired by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

Of the 17 SDGs, Goal 5 aims to end violence and discrimination against women and girls and ensure they have equal opportunities. Target 5.5 recognizes the need to ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. UCLG estimates that about 20% of councillors and just 5% of mayors globally are women.

Local and regional governments in Canada and abroad can achieve the targets of Goal 5 by acting as a model for gender equality and empowerment of women through non-discriminatory service provision to citizens and fair employment practices.

Locally, municipalities can tackle barriers to women’s equal access to land control and ownership in rural and urban areas. Local governments can mainstream gender equality across all areas of their work. Female leaders in local government can challenge gender stereotypes and set an example for young girls.

Globally, local government organizations such as UCLG and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, are drawing attention to the lack of women in decision-making roles through #BeCounted. This campaign calls on the international community to prioritize gathering data on gender equality in local government. For more information on how women and men can move towards gender equality by achieving Goal 5, visit www.women.uclg.org.

FCM International programs are undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.



Global Affairs Canada

Affaires mondiales Canada



Want to be added to the FCM Exchange distribution list? Email us at fcminternational@fcm.ca



www.fcm.ca/international



FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES MUNICIPALITÉS



SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA