

7.3 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (Verbal), IGA2019-0929

A) FCM events/meetings

September 2019 Board Meeting

The FCM Board will meet in Waterloo, Ontario from September 10-13, 2019. Highlights are expected to include.

- Discussion of a revised membership / dues structure
- Discussion of governance review
- Review of federal election strategy to date and opportunities for member participation in final weeks of campaign
- Meetings of the FCM's Standing Committees, where policy direction and resolutions for federal advocacy will be considered for recommendation to the Board as a whole.
- A meeting of the Board as a whole where resolutions for advocacy will be considered for approval and/or recommendation for discussion at the Annual Conference in May/June

The City of Calgary has sponsored a resolution that will be presented to the Social-Economic Development Committee calling on the federal government to review and address the regionally-differentiated impacts of its mortgage rules (e.g. "stress test"). If approved by the Social-Economic Development Committee, the resolution will be forwarded to the Board of Directors as a whole for final approval.

November 2019 advocacy days

The FCM Board will also meet in Ottawa in November for its annual advocacy days. Normally, this is presented as an opportunity to meet with Parliamentarians of all different stripes to raise FCM's profile and communicate key priorities. Should there be a change in government following the fall election, however, it may be difficult to arrange meetings with many Parliamentarians, and FCM may have to consider a different approach to achieving similar objectives.

B) FCM Activities

FCM Federal Election Advocacy Campaign

With a federal election on the horizon, the bulk of FCM's activities since the Annual Conference in Quebec City have been directed towards the organization's federal election campaign. Styled as "building better lives," the campaign looks to solidify the idea of municipalities as nation-builders in need of modernized tools to improve the lives of Canadians.

FCM will be launching a full platform release in September, including a tool to track the national parties' positions on FCM priorities. Between now and the official release of the platform, FCM will spend several weeks previewing each of its' election planks, including:

- The Gas Tax Fund
- Rural Communities
- Public Transit
- Housing Affordability
- Disaster Mitigation

These platform previews have already begun with the release of FCM's call on federal parties to commit to a permanent doubling of the Gas Tax Fund transfer, including a predictable, annual growth rate that better reflects economic growth and construction costs. Alongside the details of this plank, FCM has also launched online tools that allow local leaders and other individuals to share this recommendation with parties, candidates and leaders. As this (and other) element of the FCM platform align closely with The City of Calgary's own priorities, there are opportunities to leverage these and other FCM tools to share local successes and tell the story of how an improved Gas Tax Fund could build better lives locally. The YYC Matters federal election strategy will include suggestions on how to build on these messages, and interested councillors should feel free to reach out to Intergovernmental & Corporate Strategy for more information.

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JUL 25 2019

ITEM: 7.3 IGA2019-0929

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