



CITY OF CALGARY  
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ITEM: 9.1 PFC2020-0237  
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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

**Report**  
**Number:** PFC2020-0237

**Meeting:** Priorities & Finance Committee

**Meeting Date:** 2020 February 11

NOTICE OF MOTION

**RE: Council spending on Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conferences**

**Sponsoring Councillor:** Jeromy Farkas, Sean Chu

WHEREAS the citizens of Calgary are experiencing a difficult economic downturn;

AND WHEREAS Council has approved several budget reductions in the past year;

AND WHEREAS the citizens of Calgary expect their elected representatives to make every effort to reduce costs within their control;

AND WHEREAS the expenses for the 2019 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference (FCM) totaled more than \$30,000;

AND WHEREAS technology, tele-conferencing, and advance planning allow the City of Calgary to be adequately represented by a smaller number of Councillors;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no requirement for an accounting of the learnings and outcomes from these conferences;

AND WHEREAS on 2018 January 29, in a Motion Arising, Council directed the Co-ordinating Committee of the Councillors' Office to draft a Council policy with respect to travel for future Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Alberta Urban Municipalities Association conferences attended by Councillors occurring at the taxpayers' expense and return to Council no later than 2018 Q3;

AND WHEREAS more than two years have passed without the work in the Motion Arising being completed, requiring focused effort to restore public trust;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council reconsiders the Motion Arising with respect to Notice of Motion C2018-0121, and directs the Office of the Councillors to:

1. Disallow any new bookings (besides the Council-appointed FCM representative) for the 2020 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference in Toronto, ON. In order to avoid costly cancellation charges, Councillors currently booked to attend may do so, but their total conference-related expenses are to be capped at \$2,800.
2. Effective immediately, for 2020 and beyond:
  - I. require a public presentation to Council on the learnings and outcomes from the Councillor attendees of FCM conferences, to be presented within a month following the conference.
  - II. enforce the allowable daily expense amounts for Councillor-attendee and cap total FCM conference-related expenses at \$2,800 per attendee. Spending on alcohol is strictly prohibited.
  - III. require all FCM conference-related expenses to come from, and be fully disclosed, as part of the City Councillor's ward budget, not the Office of the Councillors or other city department.
3. For FCM conferences in 2021 and beyond, limit the number of Councillor-attendees in attendance to the Council-appointed FCM representative, and one Councillor selected by lottery.

## NOTICE OF MOTION CHECKLIST

The checklist is a tool intended to support the sponsor(s) of a Notice of Motion. The items listed below are important considerations when crafting and submitting a Notice of Motion. It is also intended to support other Members of Council, as the same considerations are important when reaching a decision on a Notice of Motion.

The checklist is therefore an opportunity for the sponsor(s) to:

- consider what advice might be helpful to them in formulating their proposal; and
- share key points about the advice received with their Council colleagues, to inform their deliberations.

This document is recommended to be provided to City Clerks alongside every Notice of Motion and will become part of the Corporate record. It is at the discretion of the sponsor(s) to decide with whom to consult and what information to include.

Title of the Motion:

### **COUNCIL SPENDING ON FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCES**

There are two classifications of a Notice of Motion (Check the one that applies):

☐ Regular

☒ Urgent (Include details in Urgency Rationale box below)

☐ Is this Notice of Motion Confidential? (Include details in Procedural box below)

<b>Financial and Other Resource Capacity</b>
In 2019, the expenses for the FCM conference totaled more than \$30,000. The implementation of this Notice of Motion would allow for significant cost savings.
<b>Legal / Legislative</b>
n/a

<b>Technical Content</b>
<p>See below. Reconsideration may be required.</p>
<b>Procedural (Including reasons for confidentiality)</b>
<p>On 2018 January 29, in a Motion Arising, Council directed the Co-ordinating Committee of the Councillors' Office to draft a Council policy with respect to travel for future Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Alberta Urban Municipalities Association conferences attended by Councillors occurring at the taxpayers' expense and return to Council no later than 2018 Q3.</p> <p>More than two years have passed without the work in the Motion Arising being completed, requiring further action from Council.</p>
<b>Other Considerations</b>
<p>Without action on this matter, Council risks the continued erosion of public trust.</p>
<b>Urgency Rationale</b>
<p>Council members are presently making arrangements for attendance to the conference, and if parameters are to change, the decision must be made as soon as possible.</p>