

# BRIEFING

Page 1 of 2

Item #5.2.1

Deputy City Manager's Office Briefing to  
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee  
2021 February 18

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## Federation of Canadian Municipalities Update – February 2021

### PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

To provide information on recent and upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) activities and events.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### Big City Mayors' Caucus Meeting

With the 2021 federal budget approaching, FCM's Big City Mayors' Caucus met virtually during the week of February 8 to discuss the municipal sector's vision for Canada's economy. Over the course of the week, the mayors from Canada's 22 largest cities met with key federal cabinet ministers and opposition leaders to outline recommendations for investments that respond to residents' immediate COVID-19 needs and challenges, while also laying the groundwork for a recovery rooted in the places where Canadians live and work every day. The mayors also made it clear that an extension of operating support for municipalities for the duration of the pandemic is a top priority, so that local leaders can focus on creating jobs and driving economic recovery.

#### Western Economic Solutions Taskforce Meeting

Members of FCM's Western Economic Solutions (WEST), including Mayor Nenshi and the President of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, met on January 26 to discuss the group's efforts to date, and a possible extension of its mandate. Originally meant to wind up this March, WEST is looking to extend its operations through the spring Budget and to issue final recommendations in June 2021. With some work delayed by the impacts of COVID-19, this will allow members time to continue to engage key government representatives (including Jim Carr, newly elevated to Cabinet as Special Representative for the Prairies) on such key issues as:

- Improvements to the federal impact assessment process.
- Scaling up the impact of Western Economic Diversification Canada (particularly in light of the recent commitment to a separate Prairie agency).
- Expanding the National Trade Corridors Fund.
- Supporting the energy sector to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Upon news of U.S. President Biden's Executive Order rescinding permits for the Keystone XL pipeline, FCM reached out to key Canadian Cabinet Ministers to reiterate the WEST policy, adopted by FCM in September 2020, that the Government of Canada work with provinces, municipalities and Indigenous groups to establish national unitality corridors as a priority, which could include pipelines and other resource and utility structures.

#### Upcoming Virtual Board Meeting

Originally scheduled to take place in Prince George, British Columbia, due to the pandemic FCM will hold its annual March board meeting online from March 9 to 12. The third such event for FCM, the meeting will provide an opportunity for the Board and its various policy and

# BRIEFING

Page 2 of 2

Item #5.2.1

operational subcommittees to discuss and direct overall FCM strategic direction. A report on the outcomes will be shared following the meetings.

## 2021 Annual Conference and Trade Show

In late January, the FCM Executive made the decision to cancel the in-person event in Montreal, opting instead for a virtual conference and Annual General Meeting. More details to follow.