

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Update – December 2023 (Verbal)

Recommendation

That the Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Committee recommend that Council receive this verbal report and distribution for the Corporate Record.

November 2023 Board Meeting and Advocacy Days

- FCM Advocacy Days took place 2023 November 21-24, in Ottawa, Ontario. The City of Calgary (The City) took part in meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs), heard presentations from FCM staff and counterparts on pressing matters impacting municipalities, and attended political keynote addresses.
- The primary advocacy focus during the week was on the Municipal Growth Framework and the Budget 2024 recommendation topics, which include:
 - Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure
 - Climate Change
 - Public Safety, Mental Health and Substance Abuse
 - Rural and Northern Issues
- Building out support for a Municipal Growth Framework, FCM has conducted new research and walked Board representatives through findings, which include:
 - The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has estimated that 5.8 million new homes must be built by 2023, over double the 2.3 million projected to be built over that timeline.
 - Each new home requires, on average, \$107,000 in municipally owned capital assets. This is mostly attributed to roads, water, wastewater, and stormwater assets.
 - Reaching the goal of 5.8 million homes will require an estimated \$600 billion in municipally owned capital assets. This does not include operation and maintenance, adaptation for climate and low carbon infrastructure, emergency services, civic buildings, health, education, or electrical utilities.
- FCM noted that it is monitoring implementation of legislation that would prevent municipalities from negotiating agreements directly with the federal government (similar to what Quebec currently has in place) and has flagged this as a risk to municipalities.
- At the November Board Meeting, a new Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy was passed, and updates shared, including signaling of upcoming announcements regarding the Green Municipal Fund, a FCM program funded by the federal government to help municipalities switch to sustainable practices faster.

Upcoming meetings and events

March 2024 Board Meeting

- The next FCM Board Meeting will be 2024 March 5-7, in Prince George, British Columbia.

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General Manager Chris Arthurs concurs with the information in this verbal update.