

**Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Update – March2024 (Verbal)**

**Recommendation**

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

**Budget Advocacy**

- FCM is continuing with its budget advocacy ahead of the 2024 Federal Budget, which will be tabled 2024 April 16.
- FCM anticipates that Budget 2024 will not include any new infrastructure funding.
- FCM continues to advocate for infrastructure funding and is calling for immediate investment in:
  - Municipal water and wastewater infrastructure;
  - Climate resilience and adaptation;
  - Public transit; and
  - A multi-faceted approach to end chronic homelessness.
- A new federal housing action plan is expected to be announced by the federal government ahead of the budget.

**Municipal Growth Framework**

- FCM will be shifting its focus to infrastructure advocacy in advance of the federal budget and proposed changes to the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).
- FCM will still pursue a commitment from the federal government to convene a table with federal, provincial and municipal representation to discuss a new fiscal framework.
- As this work continues, The City will continue to provide feedback to ensure that the Calgary and Alberta context is considered when developing this national initiative.

**Infrastructure Funding**

- Infrastructure challenges are at the forefront, with no new infrastructure funding anticipated in Budget 2024, and the wrapping up of Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and the Canada Transit Fund not being released until 2026.
- The CCBF, which provides more than \$2 billion in annual capital funding, is undergoing renewal negotiations between the Federal and provincial governments. FCM has shared that the federal government has signaled that housing requirements will be tied to the funds and could limit municipalities from using the funds for state-of-good repair, potentially negatively impacting The City's ability to fund the maintenance of existing infrastructure.

**Guidebook for United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**

- FCM is currently developing a guidebook directed to municipalities to support them at implementing actions in UNDRIP.

**Safer spaces for municipal governance**

- A common theme at all the recent FCM meetings was the concerns of a more hostile political climate with the intensifying rise of harassment, threats, and unsafe working environments for municipal leaders.
- To bring awareness, FCM did not have a celebratory message on International Women's Day (2024 March 8), sharing that women tend to face the most harassment, and asking for immediate action for safer spaces for municipal governance.

### Recent Meeting Highlights

#### Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus Meeting

- The Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus meeting was held virtually on 2024 February 21.
- Items discussed included drought and wildfire risks, food security, and municipal-federal agreements and the impact of potential legislation for municipalities to work with the federal government.

#### Big Cities Mayors' Caucus (BCMC)

- The Big Cities Mayors' Caucus held an in-person meeting in Ottawa, Ontario on 2024 February 26.
- Mayors met with federal ministers and discussed a wide array of municipal issues, which included infrastructure funding needs.

#### March 2024 Committee of the Whole and Board Meeting

- FCM Committee of the Whole and Board Meeting was held 2024 March 5-7, in Prince George, British Columbia.
- Theme of the meeting was Reconciliation and included a presentation from the City of Prince George and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and their shared experience of crafting a relationship agreement.
- Also discussed was of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for municipal services like winter maintenance, waste and recycling, recreation, and planning and development permits.
- The Board discussed resolutions for members to consider at the June conference in Calgary.

### Upcoming meetings and events

#### 2024 FCM Conference and Trade Show

- The 2024 FCM Conference will be held in Calgary at the TELUS Convention Centre.
- Registration opened on 2024 February 13 and as of writing this report there are over 1,300 delegates registered. Trade show booths are sold out.

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

