

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Update – June 2024 (Verbal)

Recommendation

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

The past month has been busy for The City of Calgary and our relationship with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with several positive announcements and the hosting of the largest-ever FCM conference.

Canada and FCM Green Municipal Fund

- On 2024 May 27, The City of Calgary announced that it will receive \$33.7 million in federal funding to expand The City's existing composting services:
 - \$23 million from FCM's Green Municipal Fund; and
 - \$10.7 million from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Low Carbon Economy fund.
- The project is estimated to create 180 full-time jobs to expand the composting facility's capacity from 100,000 to 160,000 tonnes per year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which represents removing nearly 14,000 cars from the road.

Big Cities Mayors' Caucus (BCMC) Meeting, 2024 June 5-6, Calgary

Reconciliation Circle

- A Reconciliation Circle and workshops was held on 2024 June 5 with participation from Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Markham and Halifax.

BCMC Board Meeting

- Mayors from Canada's biggest cities met in person (and virtually) in Calgary to discuss policy and issues affecting large cities.
- Mayor Josh Morgan from London, Ontario, is the incoming Chair of BCMC, and Scott Gillgham, Mayor of Winnipeg, is the incoming Vice-Chair.
- Discussions included housing affordability climate, the opioid crisis, Alberta's Bill 18 and FCM's new Municipal Growth Framework.
- Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, Sean Fraser, met with the mayors for candid discussions. The mayors described the challenges municipalities are facing with increased infrastructure and resident needs, all while having only one main lever for revenue generation.
- Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with the big city mayors on 2024 June 7, discussing the challenges that large cities in Canada are facing which included homelessness, asylum seekers and refugees, climate change and limited infrastructure funding.

2024 FCM Conference and Trade Show, 2024 June 6-9, Calgary

Conference Highlights

- FCM Chief Executive Officer Carole Saab shared in her Annual General Meeting speech that the 2024 Calgary convention was the "greatest conference in our history."

- Over 3,100 participants took part, and for the first time, FCM had to close registration before the convention started.
- Much of the convention's success was due to over 200 City staff supporting the conference in various capacities, from over 50 leading study tours, to assisting with onsite logistics to answering questions at The City of Calgary / Tourism Calgary information desk.

Redefining our Future

- Municipal Growth Framework
 - FCM publicly released the [Municipal Growth Framework](#) a central component of the convention that includes recommendations for achieving a new, fair and predictable funding system for local governments.
 - The framework's goal is to enable local governments to maintain and build the infrastructure to deliver services to residents.
- Harassment of Elected officials
 - FCM facilitated engaging discussions during the closing plenaries about the increasing political polarization leading to increased harassment.
 - Speakers included Mayor Gondek and Emily Laidlaw, Ethics Advisor for The City of Calgary.
 - Discussions included the need to create systems to support elected officials, their staff and their families, including tools to file complaints and receive support from the public and, in some cases, from council colleagues.
 - Quebec's recent legislation on anti-harassment of elected officials, [Bill 57](#), was highlighted as a potential next step for other provinces.
 - The bill is an omnibus bill that includes fines for threatening elected officials and disturbing meetings.
 - Women, Indigenous peoples, Black and other racialized communities, 2SLGBTQIA+ and persons with disabilities are increasingly targeted for harassment. Speakers shared that if more is not done to address this issue, we risk losing the diversity of elected officials.

Keynote Speakers

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
- Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada
- Honourable Scott Aitchison, Shadow Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, Conservative Party of Canada
- Honourable Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
- Elisabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada
- Marvin Rees, Former Mayor of Bristol, United Kingdom, and Officer of the Order of British Empire

Resolutions

The following resolutions were adopted at FCM's Resolutions Plenary:

- Strengthening RCMP Recruitment and Retention
 - FCM is urging the federal government to collaborate with relevant federal authorities to carry out strategic measures to improve and increase RCMP recruitment and retention efforts.
- Federal Support for Food Banks

- FCM calls on the federal government to help address the food insecurity crisis by providing emergency funding to food banks, food rescue agencies and farmers' markets providing emergency food assistance, and recognize the systemic issues involved in food bank usage, including affordability, inequality, core housing need and insufficient social supports, to end food insecurity.
- Enhancing Shelter Supports for Women and Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence
 - FCM calls on the federal government to work with the provinces and territories to provide permanent operational funding, open to local governments and community organizations, for shelters, transitional housing and supportive housing for women and survivors of intimate partner violence, including Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+ people and persons with disabilities.
- Harassment of Elected Local Government Officials
 - FCM calls on the federal government to work with provinces, territories and local governments, through FCM, to identify and implement measures to protect elected local government officials, their family members and staff – especially women, members of Black and racialized communities and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, persons with disabilities and Indigenous people – from harassment, intimidation, and threats, thereby reinforcing a unified front to safeguard democracy.
 - FCM also calls on all elected officials of all orders of government to lead by example, demonstrating civility and mutual respect for their political counterparts.

FCM Annual General Meeting

The 2024-2025 Board of Directors:

- Geoff Stewart, Deputy Mayor for the Municipality of the County of Colchester, Nova Scotia, is the new President of FCM, having served on the Board of Directors since 2017.
- For the third vice-president's election, the FCM membership elected Kathy Valentino, 35 per cent from Thompson, Manitoba, from the prairies and territories caucus.
- Scott Pearce, the Mayor of the Township of Gore in Quebec, has served as the FCM president for the past year and will now transition to the role of past president. We acknowledge his significant contributions during his tenure and look forward to continued guidance in his new role.
- Rebecca Bligh, a Councillor from the City of Vancouver, transitions to first vice president, and Tim Tierney, a Councillor from the City of Ottawa, transitions to second vice president.

Upcoming FCM national conferences

- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities unites over 2,100 local governments nationally, representing over 92 per cent of Canadians in every province and territory.
- The next convention will be hosted by the City of Ottawa in 2025, and then it will return to Alberta, with Edmonton hosting it in 2026.

Author: Jenn Proche, Intergovernmental Relations

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