

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

Recommendation

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

FCM Update

Geoff Stewart, Deputy Mayor for the Municipality of the County of Colchester, Nova Scotia, and newly appointed president of FCM, lost his bid for re-election on 2024 September 18. With Geoff's departure, Rebecca Bligh, a Councillor from the City of Vancouver, transitioned to president, and Tim Tierney, a Councillor from the City of Ottawa, transitioned to vice president. The City of Calgary thanks Geoff Stewart for his seven years of service to the FCM Board of Directors and his tireless advocacy for improving Canadian communities.

Big City Mayors' Caucus (BCMC) Meeting, 2023 October 23

Mayors from Canada's larger cities met virtually, including Mayor Gondek, to discuss policy and issues affecting large cities. Discussions included the need for homelessness, encampment, and mental health funding, support for asylum seekers, and water infrastructure. Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada joined the meeting to discuss bail reform and auto theft, the challenges that repeat offenders have on police agencies and the negative community impact.

The FCM team has been working tirelessly on a strategic direction for the year ahead with targeted advocacy in advance of a federal election. Part of this advocacy is a new video campaign aimed at raising awareness and pushing for action from the federal government on homelessness and encampments in cities across the country.

During the meeting, Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante held a press conference to announce that she will not be running for a third term as mayor in November of 2025. This was the last BCMC meeting for Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark, who decided not to run in November's municipal election earlier this year.

A new face to the caucus was the newly elected Mayor of Gatineau, Maude Marquis-Bissonnette, who was elected in a by-election in June after the previous mayor, France Bélisle, who stepped down earlier this year citing a hostile political climate.

Upcoming meetings and events

- Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus Meeting, 2024 November 18, virtual.
- Advocacy Days, 2024 December 3-5, Ottawa.
- FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference, 2025 February 10-13, Fredericton.
- FCM Board Meeting, 2025 March 18-20, Dorval.
- Annual Conference and Trade Show 2025, 2025 May 29-June 1, Ottawa.

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