

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

Recommendation

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

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Advocacy Days

- Municipal representatives from across Canada convened in Ottawa from 2024 December 3-5, to meet with federal representatives as part of FCM Advocacy Days.
- A key topic of conversation was the impacts and opportunities of population growth. Municipalities have seen historic population growth and are seeking a larger funding envelope to provide services to residents. Through the Municipal Growth Framework, FCM advocates for better use of Canadian tax dollars to provide these services.
- FCM hosted a successful reception, with several members of parliament attending, including:
 - Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau,
 - Speaker of the House, Greg Ferguson,
 - Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Ya'ara Saks, and
 - Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry of Canada, Francois-Philippe Champagne.
- Political keynote speakers included Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure, and Canadian Communities, and Member of Parliament Scott Aitchison, Shadow Minister for Housing and Diversity and Inclusion and the former Mayor of Huntsville, Ontario.
- FCM Board member Cllr. Walcott met with the following Members of Parliament to discuss the Municipal Growth Framework and share local issues:
 - Member of Parliament, Blaine Calkins (Lacombe-Red Deer),
 - Member of Parliament, Greg Mclean (Calgary-Centre), and
 - Member of Parliament, George Chahal (Calgary-Skyview).

FCM Resolutions

- Following the committee meeting held virtually from 2024 November 18-22, the FCM Board approved the following resolutions to be adopted as FCM policy:
- **Supporting Local Partnerships in Alternative Crisis Response and Diversion**
 - This resolution calls on the federal government to collaborate with provinces and territories to provide funding to scale up existing municipal programs and funding and support for local governments to implement pilot projects to divert non-violent mental health, homelessness, and substance abuse away from police response where appropriate.
- **Provincial and National Firefighting Strategy – Cost-sharing**
 - Encourage the federal government to commit funds for cost-sharing of provincial firefighting, expedite the Canadian Wildland Fire Prevention and Mitigation Strategy, address gaps in wildfire capacity at a national level, and explore the

development of national coordination measures, including a national emergency management agency.

- **Rail Safety Improvement Program Funding (RSIP)**
 - Lobby the Government of Canada to significantly increase funding to the RSIP to assist municipalities or fully absorb the compliance costs associated with federal grade crossing regulations.
- **Improving Indoor Air Quality**
 - This resolution calls on the Government of Canada to consider funding a range of targeted interventions to improve air quality in public settings and mitigate airborne disease transmission and enhance containment.
- **Development Cost Charges for Affordable Housing**
 - Call on the federal government to further increase funding levels for affordable housing projects and mandate the inclusion of funding for development cost charges as part of all capital grants.

Upcoming FCM meetings and events

- Sustainable Communities Conference, 2025 February 10-13, Fredericton, New Brunswick.
- Board Meeting, 2025 March 18-20, Dorval, Quebec.
- Annual Conference and Trade Show, 2025 May 29-June 1, Ottawa, Ontario

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