



MEMO

TO: Council

FROM: Regional Councillor Colleen Jordan

DEPARTMENT: Ajax Council

SUBJECT: Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Conference Report, Winnipeg, June 2-5

DATE: 16 / 11 / 25

The following report provides an overview of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference held in Winnipeg from June 2 to 5.

Delegates at the convention supported the following motions:

Homelessness Partnering Strategy

RESOLVED, That FCM urge the federal government to:

- Update the Homelessness Partnering Strategy “Designated Communities” eligibility list to reflect significant homelessness challenges faced by many communities not previously identified as having serious homelessness challenges;
- Increase funding for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy to account for new communities added to the program;
- Amend the funding criteria to consider a broad range of factors including community capacity and the specific needs of individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and
- Renew and expand funding for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy with flexibility to fund a range of programs based on local needs, including support for a variety of strategies other than Housing First.

FCM Support for the Government of Canada's Commitment to the COP21 Paris Climate Agreement

RESOLVED, That FCM support the Government of Canada's commitment to the COP21 Paris Climate Agreement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That FCM acknowledge the Paris Climate Agreement's recognition of the need to limit global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and to incorporate these goals into FCM's policy and advocacy towards the federal government; and be it further

RESOLVED, That FCM call on the Government of Canada to develop policies and programs, in consultation with FCM and its member municipalities, that will support municipal efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the local level consistent with the need to limit global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

National Pharmacare Program

RESOLVED, That FCM call on the federal government to work with the provinces and territories to develop and implement a National Pharmacare program.

National Orange Shirt Day

RESOLVED, That FCM call upon the federal government to officially declare September 30th, National Orange Shirt Day, a national day to honour residential school survivors, their families and their communities, to ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Speakers & Workshops Overview

Prime Minister Trudeau spoke about the renewed relationship between the federal government and municipalities. He assured municipalities that they were ready to deliver on their infrastructure funding commitment of \$120 billion over the next ten years. He stated that municipalities are the “experts” in knowing the needs of their communities and that the federal government won’t interfere in municipal decisions regarding which projects they see as priorities. The Prime Minister’s comments echoed those made by Minister of Infrastructure Amarjeet Sohr who had spoken earlier in the conference.

Thomas Muclair, Leader of the New Democrats and Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party, spoke about their appreciation for the change of tone in Ottawa and of their role of ensuring that the Trudeau government follows through on their commitments. Muclair and May spoke of the need for a new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan and that municipalities have a key role to play in fighting climate change.

Digital Disruption & the Survival of Neighborhood Retail

Speakers:

- Dayna Spiring, President and CEO, Economic Development Winnipeg
- Andrea Reimer, Councillor and Chair of the Policy and Strategic Priorities Committee, City of Vancouver, BC
- Michael Thompson, Councillor and Chair of the Economic Development Committee, City of Toronto, ON

This panel spoke about the role municipalities can play to support local retail in their communities as digital technologies are revolutionizing and disrupting the Canadian landscape on many levels, including the retail industry. With consumer behaviours closely following the digital evolution, local businesses are struggling to keep up and the digital gap between them is growing. To stay afloat, businesses need more than a website — they need to transform their business model. Examples were provided by the panel, such as; municipalities working with their BIAs in partnership with Rogers and Yellow Pages to gather information about customer needs and expand their customer base, apps for food trucks and incentive programs such as “Salt Spring Bucks” which is a local initiative to encourage customers to spend locally. These

have proven to be successful. Yellow Pages offered to work with municipal Economic Development Departments and distributed their publication “Cities as Warehouses: The Survival of Main Street Retail in a Digital World.”

Thinking Local: How Municipalities are Leading on Climate Change

Speakers:

- Don Iveson, Mayor, City of Edmonton, AB – Panelist
- Madeleine Redfern, Mayor, City of Iqaluit, NU – Panelist
- Pauline Quinlan, Mayor, City of Bromont, QC – Panelist
- Joshua MacNab, BC Director, Pembina Institute – Panelist

Michael McSweeney, President and CEO Cement Association of Canada, stated that we should consider the 100 kilometre construction diet in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Madeleine Redfern, Mayor of Iqaluit stated that their community is already experiencing the dire effects of climate change as a result of permanent frost melting. Foundations, pipes, houses and infrastructure are at risk as eroding occurs. Roads also become a significant problem. Additional money is needed to address these problems.

Don Iveson, Mayor of Edmonton provided examples of how Edmonton has worked with their university and the community. Sixty citizen champions have worked with home builders etc. with a target of having the highest net zero homes in Canada. He noted that more resources are needed for Transit. Mayor Iveson raised concerns that the Green Infrastructure fund provides funding to reduce GGC emissions; whereas funding is also required for adaptation measures such as flood mitigation infrastructure. He stressed the need to balance mitigation funding with adaptation measures and expressed the need to build for resiliency.

Joshua MacNab spoke about the need to answer the questions as to how we transition to a low carbon economy.

Municipal-Indigenous Partnerships and Reconciliation

Speakers:

- Rosanna Deerchild, CBC Journalist – Moderator
- William Lathlin, Deputy Chief, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB – Panelist
- Jim Scott, Mayor, Town of The Pas, MB – Panelist
- Rod Berezowecki, Reeve, Rural Municipality of Kelsey, MB – Panelist
- Brian Bowman, Mayor, City of Winnipeg, MB – Panelist
- Jessica Dumas, Chair of the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce and member of the Mayor’s Indigenous Advisory Circle, Winnipeg, MB – Panelist

In 2014, Maclean’s labelled Winnipeg the most racist city in Canada. In response, the new mayor and council took action to improve relationships with the city’s Indigenous community and address the issue head on. As a result, 2016 has been proclaimed Year of Reconciliation.

Mayor Bowman stated that the article and stories they heard were heartbreaking. He said it was important to listen and start a dialogue and keep the conversation going to bring the community together to do better. The city launched a website OneWinnipeg.ca. The city also held a conference and launched an indigenous advisory circle which resulted in the Year of Reconciliation being proclaimed. Currently, they are developing an Urban Aboriginal Accord. A

visionary exercise has been initiated with youth and Mandatory Reconciliation Training for all Winnipeg City employees has been implemented. Mayor Bowman is visiting all high schools to speak about reconciliation and diversity. He said "Everyone should be proud of who they are." He told the story about a letter written by a young aboriginal girl to the Chief of Police that ended with "if my body is found, this is what I want you to tell my parents."

Now at every Council meeting, it is announced that they are meeting on the traditional lands of the Metis nation.

Similarly, the Town of The Pas, the Rural Municipality of Kelsey and the Opaskwayak Cree Nation are overcoming their difficult past through a friendship accord, a new Tri-Council structure and a joint investor attraction website; demonstrating that they are "Three Communities – One Heart" and open for business together.

Chief William Lathlin spoke about the poor relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people when he was growing up. They were not allowed to cross the river to the non-aboriginal communities without a pass until 1951. They were made to sit on the left side of any theatre. Scraps and brawls were common between the groups and many aboriginal youth did not complete high school.

He described a very different atmosphere now. His band has signed a Friendship Accord with the municipalities of Kelsey and Town of The Pas to work together on Economic Development issues. Young people came together and met in the middle of the bridge that now joins their communities to also sign an Accord. He stressed the need to respect differences and work together.

Canadian Museum of Human Rights

This is the first national museum located outside Ottawa and the first museum in the world dedicated to the evolution, celebration and future of human rights. It is a very impressive building with very thought provoking and moving displays of our human rights history.