



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 4, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole

Date: March 22, 2019

From: Mayor Helps

Subject: FCM Special Advocacy Fund Election 2019 City of Victoria Contribution

BACKGROUND

Election 2019 is a significant moment for Canadian cities. We have the opportunity to move the yard stick on new fiscal tools for municipalities to help local governments tackle the increasing challenges and issues that we face. The FCM Board of Directors proposed the Special Advocacy Fund to deliver on these priorities and to leverage the federal election for the benefit of the municipal sector.

Members who choose to pay this optional contribution will be funding an ambitious, multi-faceted campaign that integrates polling, detailed platform development, sustained outreach to every federal party, and an innovative communications and media plan – all with the goal of keeping municipal priorities front-and-centre during the election and the crucial first months of a new government.

Since the last federal election, FCM has made significant gains for municipalities, from historic infrastructure investments to Canada's first National Housing Strategy. With another election local governments have to ensure that all federal parties understand that local solutions tackle national challenges.

Victoria's share (calculated on a sliding scale based on population) is \$6600.

Support has been very positive across the country with contributions received from municipalities of all sizes in every province and territory. As a capital city, and also as a city that has benefited from FCM's advocacy work in Election 2015, I believe we have a responsibility to contribute.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS FCM has a long track-record of delivering gains for all Canadian municipalities, like the permanent Gas Tax Fund.

WHEREAS FCM's hard work and influence has significantly shaped historic gains for local governments starting with our Election 2015 breakthrough, including:

- The **Investing in Canada infrastructure plan** — a 12-year, \$180 billion federal investment in local infrastructure, from public transit to wastewater system upgrades.
- Canada's first-ever **national housing strategy**, including key commitments to repair and build affordable housing across the country.

- A strengthened **seat at the table**, including through unprecedented engagement with federal ministers, as well as with opposition leaders and the Prime Minister.
- A **predictable federal allocation model** for transit expansions that puts municipalities in the driver's seat.
- A \$2 billion **rural and northern infrastructure fund** — the biggest investment of its kind in a generation.
- Better access to **high-speed broadband** through the federal Connect to Innovate program and the CRTC decision to mandate universal broadband access.
- New **capacity-building programs** on asset management and climate change — led by FCM — as well as a new \$125 million capital investment in FCM's Green Municipal Fund.

WHEREAS the 2019 election is a vital opportunity to build on those gains and to consolidate the municipal sector's position as an essential national partner to any federal government no matter which party wins the next federal election.

WHEREAS FCM's Special Advocacy Fund will drive FCM's most ambitious campaign ever, which will include reaching out to every federal party to keep municipal priorities front-and-centre heading into and throughout Election 2019, as well as in the crucial first months of a new government.

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approves \$6,600 from surplus to cover Victoria's participation in FCM's Special Advocacy Fund.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mayor Helps