



Council Member Motion
For the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of January 21, 2016

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** January 18, 2016
From: Councillor Coleman
Subject: Council Sharing

There has been an extraordinary number of complex issues working their way through the system in the last three months. As the Fairfield-Gonzales Neighbourhood liaison, I fielded many inquiries on:

- Tent City at the Court House (with associated concerns from neighbours having to deal with associated impacts)
- The "Biketoria" initiative (and potential loss of parking along Cook St)
- The Cool Aid Society's purchase of Mount Edwards Apartments (and the conversion to supportive housing by 2017)
- Sewage Treatment options (& costs)
- The use of the Boys & Girls Club building as a temporary shelter
- The Johnson Street Bridge project
- The ongoing process of the development application at Cook & Oliphant
- the proposal to establish a FN Long House at the top of Beacon Hill
- the use of City of Victoria Housing Trust funds outside the City boundaries
- possible casino applications in the region
- Marijuana dispensaries (medical & recreational)
- the re-emergence of the International marina application
- Art Gallery rezoning
- Changes to Bus Terminal to Douglas Street Hub
- The re-emergence of some "Reno-viction" issues in James Bay (as rental buildings are being purchased) that may spill into other neighbourhoods

For this Council update I should like to focus a different aspect.....my role as a Board member (& BC caucus chair) for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities:

In terms of time commitment, I attend three sets of 4-day Board meetings a year (end of Feb, beginning of Sept & middle of Nov) as well as the FCM AGM in early June. As one of five Regional Caucus chairs, I also sit on FCM's 10 person National Executive and participate in monthly conference calls (always set on Thursday mornings, which is why I often excuse myself from GPC!).

FCM is structured to advocate on behalf of its almost 2000 municipal members, with the Federal Government on a range of areas/issues of municipal/community concern. In order to do this efficiently, FCM has a number of Standing Committees:

- SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FM)
- MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS
- ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **(M & former vice-chair)**
- THE RURAL FORUM
- COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION (FM & vice-chair)
- MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION POLICY
- THE NORTHERN AND REMOTE FORUM
- INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT **(M)**
- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS **(M)**
- CONFERENCE PLANNING **(M)**

FCM also uses a Task Force Model to address a number of other issues.

I have appended the Summary Report from the last FCM Board meeting for your perusal.....if you would like the specific reports from any of the Standing Committees, please ask & I can provide.

REPORT TO COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OTTAWA, ON...NOVEMBER 17-20, 2015

SUMMARY - The FCM Board of Directors met in Ottawa, from November 17-20. Board members spent four days addressing vital national issues playing out at the local level during Regional Caucus meetings, Standing Committee and Forum meetings, two Committee of the Whole meetings and the Board meeting.

With the House of Commons not sitting, it simply was not possible to conduct the traditional Advocacy Days that normally coincide with FCM's November Board meeting. However, that did not stop FCM leadership from achieving an unprecedented level of early engagement with the new federal government. In the span of just a few days, FCM met with six federal cabinet ministers responsible for issues that are key to the municipal agenda:

Min. Bill Morneau, - Finance;
Min. Amarjeet Sohi, - Infrastructure and Communities;
Min. John McCallum - Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship;
Min. Catherine McKenna - Environment and Climate Change;
Min. Ralph Goodale - Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness; and,
Min. Marie-Claude Bibeau - International Development.

In each one of these meetings, FCM received very positive signs that the new government fully understands the critical importance of working in partnership with municipalities.

Board members discussed the historic level of attention given to municipal priorities during the recent federal election, and the role FCM members played in making that happen. The Board received the necessary documentation to engage local MPs in their ridings and to brief them on FCM's action plan, *Cities and Communities: Partners in Canada's Future*. This document introduces FCM to the new government, offers insights into municipal priorities, and lays out what the federal government needs to do in the first 100 days of Parliament to work with municipalities to deliver on its election commitments to Canadians.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Coleman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Chris Coleman