



STAFF REPORT

Title: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) - Western Economic Solutions Taskforce

Meeting Date: November 19, 2019

Executive Summary:

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has created a subgroup called the Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST), announced in a statement from FCM President Bill Karsten on November 8, 2019.

The taskforce will focus on the economic downturn facing western Canada and the western provinces' "...feeling of isolation...." FCM has called on the government to assist the west with nation building energy projects, including those which would help with the transition to renewable energy. Its mandate is focused on liaising between western municipalities and the federal government to find solutions to the ongoing economic crisis in the west.

The formation of the task force comes on the heels of the Federal Election, in which a minority government was elected with no representation in either Alberta or Saskatchewan. Both prior to the election and in the aftermath of the results, several municipalities in Western Canada have voiced concerns in regards to a perceived sense of growing isolation in the west. Some have also voiced discontent with FCM as a means of engaging their concerns with the Federal Government and other municipalities across the country.

Background:

FCM's Executive Committee approved the establishment of the Task Force, including the following members:

- FCM Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus Chair (Randy Goulden, City of Yorkton, SK) – Chair
- FCM President (Bill Karsten, City of Halifax)
- FCM Third Vice-President (Darren Hill, City of Saskatoon)
- President of Rural Municipalities of Alberta (Al Kemmere)
- President of Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and FCM Rural Forum Chair (Ray Orb)
- President of Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (Barry Morishita)
- President of Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (Gordon Barnhart)
- President of Association of Manitoba Municipalities (Ralph Groening)



- Mayor of Edmonton and Big City Mayors Caucus Chair (Don Iveson, City of Edmonton)
- Mayor of Saskatoon (Charlie Clark)
- Mayor of Calgary (Naheed Nenshi)
- Mayor of Regina (Michael Fougere)
- Mayor of Winnipeg (Brian Bowman)
- FCM First Vice-President (Garth Frizzell) *ex-officio
- FCM Second Vice-President (Joanne Vanderheyden) *ex-officio
- FCM Past President (Vicki-May Hamm) *ex-officio

FCM represents more than 2,000 municipalities with over 90 per cent of Canada's population. Its active programs include the Green Municipal Fund, the Municipal Asset Management Program, Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program, Women in Local Government, First Nations-Municipal collaboration, International Programs, Partners for Climate protection, the FCM Innovation Network and the Global Covenant of Mayor in Canada.

The CLRUSC/City of Cold Lake recently received an 80/20 grant from the Green Municipal Fund to commence the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) – Moving Bed Bio Reactor (MBBR) Pilot Plant Project. This project is commencing this month.

The federation has established 10 standing committees and forums, as well as five (5) regional caucuses to provide debate and offer solutions in a variety of policy areas.

Alternatives:

- The committee may direct administration to prepare correspondence with FCM and/or the Western Economic Solutions Taskforce.
- The committee may accept this report as information.

Recommended Action:

Administration recommends that the committee accept this report as information.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

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