



## STAFF REPORT

**Title:** Request for Support - Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Resolution 2020

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2020

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### **Executive Summary:**

Attached is an email from Strathcona County seeking support on the submission of a resolution (attached) to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

The resolution is to urge FCM to advocate to the Federal Government to:

- Work with provinces, municipalities, and Indigenous groups to establish a utility corridor that would span from coast to coast to coast; and
- Repeal/amend Bills C-48 and C-69

### **Background:**

The resolution drafted by Strathcona County includes the following background:

The energy industry employs over half a million people in Canada. This includes people in every province or territory. These workers are typically middle-class Canadians who are highly skilled in their field.

The Canadian Government has signaled its support for pipelines in Canada through its purchase of the Trans Mountain pipeline. It has also voiced its support for other initiatives such as Keystone XL, Line 3, LNG Canada and the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Line. These are all important projects that deserve the support of all Canadians. They will continue the ethical and environmentally responsible development and safe transportation for our country's energy products to current and new markets.

On December 2, 2019 the Premiers of Canada released a statement through the Council of the Federation on a number of items, including growing the economy. The Premiers of Canada are united in their position that Canada, including the Federal Government, must take immediate action to enhance Canada's economic competitiveness. This includes continuing the responsible development of our natural resources, expanding international trade, and removing protectionist restrictions on our goods.

The establishment of utility corridors that include energy projects, utilities, communication products, and an opportunity for a variety of other industries will aid in



the vision laid out by the Premiers in their December 2 statement. By providing a responsible, preapproved regulatory system, these corridors may facilitate the development of important infrastructure in Canada.

Bills C-48 and C-69 will have a significant impact on the Canadian economy and are negatively affecting investor confidence. The impacts of this legislation are already being realized with numerous projects being put on hold or being stopped. Items that were previously approved and any subsequent investments are being reviewed and scrutinized.

Bill C-48 will work against getting Canadian energy products to new markets, handcuffing Canadian energy to be sold at a lower price and only to one customer. This is not sustainable. Bill C-69 will add another layer of unnecessary approvals to projects, making the development of new projects extremely difficult and in many instances, impossible. In addition, the legislation has served to sow division in Canada.

While the global energy mix will certainly shift of the next 20 years, the global requirement for traditional energy products is not projected to drop, but rather to rise over the next 20 years. The total energy required globally will increase at approximately 1% a year, every year. Renewable energy, while an important industry that should be developed, cannot fulfill the global energy demand for the foreseeable future. These bills have served to only restrict Canadian goods from getting to market while allowing energy products from countries, that do not develop their resources to the same environmental standards, into Canada, further increases the environmental impact of unethically produced energy products.

#### **Alternatives:**

Council may consider the following alternatives:

- Pass or defeat a motion authorizing the City of Cold Lake to provide a letter of support to Strathcona County in their resolution submission to the Federal of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to urge FCM to advocate to the Federal Government to; work with provinces, municipalities, and Indigenous groups to establish a utility corridor that would span from coast to coast to coast; and repeal/amend Bills C-48 and C-69.

#### **Recommended Action:**

That Council pass a motion to authorizing the City of Cold Lake to provide a letter of support to Strathcona County in their resolution submission to the Federal of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to urge FCM to advocate to the Federal Government to; work with provinces, municipalities, and Indigenous groups to establish a utility corridor that would span from coast to coast to coast; and repeal/amend Bills C-48 and C-69.



**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer