

FCM ONTARIO REGIONAL CAUCUS MEETING

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Sheraton Laval Hotel

Laval, Quebec

1. Introduction and Review of Agenda

2. FCM Governance Issues

Governance Working Group Update - FCM Deputy CEO Tim Kehoe

- GWG has recommended board approval of the revised policy on official languages. GWG is also recommending terms of reference for standing committees. Committees currently don't have Terms of Reference.
- Also recommending changes to elections/board structure so that any caucus who wished to pilot a single, at-large election could do so, as a pilot project.
- Various regional caucuses have also raised concerns about the size of the board and relative numbers of seats (within and between regions) compared to share of the Canadian population. GWG recommended that we do a proper review of this matter to report back to September meeting.
- Review of Code of Ethics is occurring and issue will come back to committee.
- GWG is looking at what to do with expiring resolutions. There is an idea that they would be mainstreamed into revised policy statements, with no further action to be taken if the topic was time or context-sensitive. Staff would be directed to conduct comprehensive review of issue-specific policy statements at least once every strategic plan cycle.
- Another recommendation would remove the requirement for motions at standing committees to have a seconder.
- Finally, FCM would like to remind everyone to fill out the online governance survey, if they have not already done so.
- Discussion: Councillor Mammoliti expressed concerns about fee increases if board reallocation takes place (e.g. what happens if a municipality pays more but ends up with less voice). Tim Kehoe said regional caucuses will play a role in developing recommendations and any changes would have to go to the Annual Conference in 2019, not to take effect until 2020.
- Committee voted to receive the report

Member Relations Update - Councillor Tierney on behalf of FCM VP Councillor Frizzell

- We have five new members in Ontario, including Sault Ste. Marie, one of our largest non-members. 65 new members have joined FCM since January 2018 - a significant increase over last year, when we had 11 new members in the same period.

- Regional caucuses are being provided with a list of new members from their region, as well as the top 20 non-members to reach out to. Because of Ontario's election cycle it will be difficult to continue this practice later in the year. We expect membership to review this strategy and propose a new framework in September.
- Discussion: Councillor Rydholm suggested we might consider giving Sault Ste. Marie a vote at the caucus if they attend the annual conference or otherwise working to include them. They're very far from the rest of the board member's municipalities and it would be good to have their voice.

Election Procedures

- This year Ontario will be electing a 3rd vice president. March 15 will be the launch of FCM's 2018 election process and campaign period, with key information to be posted on the FCM website. Table Officer nominations will be posted on the website on April 3.
- May 14 is the deadline to submit nominations for Table Office positions, and May 17 is the deadline for Consent Form submissions for board member positions.
- Elections will be held on June 3 at our Annual Conference.
- Everyone running can post ad on FCM's website but if you want it translated you have to do it yourself.
- Discussion: Councillor: Paul Pirri informed the group that he will not be seeking re-election for FCM or Council. This is also the last board meeting for FCM Past President Clark Somerville and AMO President Lynn Dollin before their terms end.

3. Awards and Submissions

- Roll of Honour - Past President Clark Somerville
 - Moved/Seconded/Carried that Ontario Caucus submit Pam McConnell for recognition in the Roll of Honour
- FCM Women in Local Government Scholarship - Councillor Chris Fonseca
 - Councillor Fonseca thanked caucus members who helped review applications for the scholarship. We received 150 applications (80 up from last year), with good representation across the regions. We also streamlined the application process and allowed video and it has worked well. Scholarships will be presented in June.
 - Councillor Fonseca thanked Councillors Somerville and Pirri for their contributions to the Women's Committee and FCM in general.

4. AMO Report – Updates

- Ontario is on track to have an Infrastructure Bilateral Agreement signed by the end of March 2018. There will be efforts to ensure municipalities are meeting reporting requirements.
- Concerns with Bill 175, in Legislature today for 3rd reading. It has the potential to increase policing costs while reducing local say and oversight in many communities; provides limited flexibility – a major disappointment after 5 years of work

- Outgoing President Dollin thanked the caucus and expressed appreciation for the strong relationship between AMO and FCM.

5. Members of the caucus were invited to dinner on Thursday, March 8.

6. FCM Corporate Plan and Operating Budget 2018-2019 - FCM CEO Brock Carlton

- Brock Carlton let the caucus know they will receive finance and audit memo before tomorrow, and opened the floor for discussion.
- *Discussion:*
 - Caucus members asked what options other than the special election levy were considered, and whether one option could be to move up a member dues increase instead. Carlton said FCM considered proposing a membership fee increase earlier but two key factors led to the levy proposal: 1) FCM did not have detailed impact analysis ready for board and 2) a membership dues increase would not take effect until next year, putting us even further behind and unable to start work on an urgent priority. This could lead to reducing services and/or staff.
 - Some caucus members asked for clarification on the election strategy and whether certain parts of the strategy were optional. Carlton clarified that election plans and platform priorities are developed in collaboration with board and the Election Readiness Working Group.
 - Some caucus members suggested that new members be exempt or be able to opt out of a levy in order to avoid discouraging member recruitment.
 - Councillor Fragedakis said FCM has value, but she feels the real pressure for funds is the deficit, not the election. Requested more detailed financial information and analysis.
 - Councillor Bridge said FCM speaks with a single voice for municipalities and shows tangible value in gas tax, so an election levy would be money well-spent.
 - Councillor Rydholm requested messaging support to sell levies or increases to municipal councils. She also requested estimates of spending breakdowns to see where the money will go (e.g. to marketing firms). Carlton clarified that the strategy is still being worked out, but we know FCM in-house staff will have much more election-related work as well.
 - Councillor Lancaster says she can justify higher fees to her council because it's FCM's success that has caused the deficit. However, she expressed concern that FCM had not talked to Regional Directors before the proposal, and encouraged a breakdown of the impacts on them.

7. Other Business

Cannabis

- Councillor Tierney distributed a recent presentation by the Ottawa Police Board on cannabis costs. Councillor Park offered to share information from London as well.
- AMO Executive Director Pat Vanini said there is conversation happening about what are new responsibilities and what are changing responsibilities for municipalities. It is

extremely difficult to make estimates right now and to compare costs across jurisdictions but we'll continue to watch and gain information about incremental costs.

- Councillor Mammoliti stated that most costs will come from enforcement and we need to be asking for that money now.
- Councillor Bridge thanked FCM for their work getting the excise tax formula to 75/25.

Infrastructure

- Councillor Usher updated the group on rapid transit initiation - London is trying to get federal funding to finish the project

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00