

## **REPORT**

### ***Office of the Mayor***

**To:** Mayor Johnstone and Members of  
Council,  
Regular Council Meeting

**Date:** June 26, 2023

**From:** Denise A Tambellini Intergovernmental  
and Community Relations Manager

**File:**

**Item #:** 2023-431

**Subject:** **2023 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference  
Summary of Potential Opportunities**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council accept the following report regarding opportunities identified at the 2023 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference (FCM AC 2023) for information.

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### **PURPOSE**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2023 Annual Conference and Trade Show took place from May 25 to 28th 2023 in Toronto, Ontario. It is the largest pan-Canadian gathering of elected officials assembled to address a range of municipal issues. This report summarizes several potential opportunities for follow up, based on Council and staff priorities. Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) staff provided support to Council attending the convention.

### **BACKGROUND**

With a theme of ***Local Action, National Results***, FCM AC 2023 showcased how cities and communities are delivering local solutions, investments and innovations that directly improve Canadians' quality of life. Even in uncertain economic times, local governments

are seen as leading the way forward—by delivering local results that have a national impact across Canada.

The convention is typically divided into several components: the official program and workshops, key note speakers, site tours, trade show, networking and targeted meetings. The link to the full program can be found here: <https://fcm.ca/en/events-training/conferences/annual-conference-and-trade-show>

The program is included for information (attachment 1).

## **FCM AC 2023 Trade Show**

FCM's Annual Conference and Trade Show is the largest annual gathering of municipal officials from across Canada. FCM has been the national voice of municipal government since 1901 and has over 2,000 member municipalities of all sizes, from cities and rural communities, to northern communities and 20 provincial and territorial municipal associations. Together, they represent approximately 92% of the Canadian population. Trade show delegates are included for information (attachment 2).

## **Keynote Speakers**

The convention draws the leaders of all political parties to share intentions for the upcoming term. The time is often used as an opportunity to announce new funding or directions for current elected officials and the political party currently holding office. This year the Prime Minister, leaders of the NDP and Green Party and a representative of the Conservative Party made presentations.

## **A. Government of Canada Funding Programs**

There are numerous federal funding programs available for municipal governments and many of the key staff attend the convention. The full list of funding available by Ministry can be found at the following link: <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/funding-financement-eng.html>.

Based on the priorities of the City, connections are recommended with relevant funding programs to establish relationships that may support our projects. The following is a summary of current key ministries to advance municipal priorities:

1. Infrastructure Canada (IC): Building strong relationships is key to understanding funding programs and strategic initiatives, as well as showcasing New Westminster's key projects. Current IC funding programs include:
  - a. Active Transportation Fund
  - b. Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund
  - c. Homelessness Partnering Strategy
  - d. Investing in Canada Program
  - e. Zero Emission Transit Fund
  - f. Natural Infrastructure Fund

- g. Green and Inclusive Communities Buildings Program
  - h. Canada Healthy Communities Initiatives
  - i. Canada Infrastructure Bank
  - j. Codes, Guides and Specifications for Climate Resilient Public Infrastructure
2. Affordable Housing - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation funding programs include:
- a. Community Capacity and Innovation Funding Stream
  - b. Housing Accelerator Fund
  - c. Rapid Housing Initiative
  - d. Co-investment Fund
  - e. Reaching Home
3. Transport Canada and Railways: As New Westminster is home to numerous railways, maintaining positive relationships is important to our continued success. CN, CP, the Railway Association and Transport Canada all attend FCM AC 2023. This is an opportunity to advance positive relationships as well as understand their organizational direction and community programs.
4. Natural Resources Canada Programs:
- a. Electric Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Source Infrastructure
  - b. Emerging Renewable Power Program
  - c. Energy Efficient Buildings
5. Transport Canada:
- a. Transportation 2030: a strategic Plan for the Future
  - b. National Trade Corridors Fund

## **B. FCM Resources and Programs**

FCM has numerous funding programs, resources and educational opportunities available to local and Indigenous governments. The Federal government funds FCM programs across the country and shapes the direction of new and innovative initiatives. Therefore, programs change based on federal priorities. Municipal project feasibility studies are often funded by FCM Green Municipal Fund and act as a gateway to set the stage for further federal capital funding.

Current funding programs include:

- Green Municipal Fund (GMF)
- Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program
- Municipal Asset Management Program
- Pilot Project: Retrofit or new construction of sustainable affordable housing

## Current Funding Received from the Government of Canada and FCM:

One of the key opportunities at the FCM Convention is understanding the latest federal funding programs as well as the upcoming government focus areas. Below are some examples of the programs where the city has been successful in securing funding from the Federal Government over the last few years.

### Recent Federal Government Funding Received

Project	Funding Received	Federal Funding Program
<b>West End Sewer Separation Project (2023)</b>	Federal funding \$5,705,595 (Provincial funding \$4,754,187)	Infrastructure Canada Investing in Canada Program – Green Infrastructure
<b>NW Museum and Archives (2020)</b>	\$91,450 (2020)	Federal Covid 19 Emergency Fund
<b>Urban Reforestation and Enhancing Biodiversity (2021)</b>	\$1,396,990.40 (80% Federal) (\$349,248 Provincial)	Infrastructure Canada Investing in Canada – Covid-19 Resilience
<b>Feasibility Study - Design of Residential Heat Pump – Joint application (2021)</b>	\$154,400	Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Green Municipal Fund
<b>Poplar Landing Seed Funding (2021)</b>	\$65,000	Canada Mortgage and Housing Seed Funding
<b>NW Museum and Archives (2021)</b>	\$91,451	Federal Covid 19 Emergency Fund
<b>Celebration and Commemoration Reopening Fund</b>	\$126,000	Federal
<b>Riverside Adventure Park (2021)</b>	\$209,652	PacifiCan Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF)
<b>City-wide Quick Build All Ages and Abilities Active Transportation Network Plan</b>	\$50,000	Infrastructure Canada – Active Transportation Fund (ATF)
<b>Improving Cycling and Green Infrastructure at Tipperary Park/City Hall</b>	\$243,750	PacifiCan Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF)
<b>BSCF Program to Serve At-Risk Youth Anti-Gang (2022)</b>	\$1,736,800	Public Safety Canada Building Safer Communities Funding
<b>Celebrate Canada - Events</b>	\$17,000	Celebrate Canada
<b>Sapperton District Energy System – Financial Modeling (2020)</b>	\$82,500	Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Green Municipal Fund
<b>New Westminster Funding Received</b>	<b><u>\$9,970,590</u></b>	

The City and its' partners have recently submitted applications to various federal funding programs worth an approximate value of \$36,400,000. The city is of course not guaranteed to receive all the funding currently under evaluation.

## **ANALYSIS**

The FCM AC 2023 provided an opportunity to advance the short and long term objectives of the City with the federal government and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The convention focused on trends and government priorities to understand Federal funding programs and key resources available for municipal governments. The FCM AC 2023 was attended by two councilors and the Manager of Intergovernmental Relations.

### **C. City Priority Projects**

While funding opportunities for good municipal projects are significant, matching federal opportunities with City projects in the current Five-Year Financial Plan are key. The networking and learning opportunities are significant if they are aligned with a clear advocacy plan that is approved and shared by all who attend on behalf of the City.

The Strategic Plan, approved by Council, guided the advocacy plan at the convention and includes the following categories:

- Community Belonging and Connecting
- Homes and Housing Options
- People Centred Economy
- Asset Management and Infrastructure
- Safe Movement of People

As well, climate action and reconciliation are key objectives aligned with senior levels of government policy and programs. An analysis of key ministries was developed prior to the convention and is included for information (attachment 3).

### **FCM Convention Highlights**

The FCM AC 2023 was an excellent opportunity to understand the federal direction of the country. Many conversations and learning sessions was focused on increasing affordable housing and climate adaptation. While other key themes evolved around increasing diversity and meeting the needs of diverse populations and increasing immigration and expanding the workforce, the overwhelming messages from municipalities across the country was the desperate need for affordable housing and that climate change is impacting every province and territory adversely.

The following areas are some of the key learnings at the convention.

### **FCM Direction and Programs**

- a. FCM Key Direction – Executive Director Keynote - Carol Saab

- We are facing unprecedented times in Canada with significant impacts of growth and immigration in order to meet national growth objectives. Municipal governments are being impacted most significantly.
  - Our greatest challenges are health care and housing
  - We need to building strong and resilient communities with the support of senior levels of government,
  - We need a new municipal growth framework as the current relationship is not working:
    - How do we work together and fast;
    - Outdated dynamic of relationships between governments and municipalities;
    - We need to talk to each other to fix things; and
    - We cannot afford the status quo.
- b. FCM Climate Adaptation Programs
- The Federal Government has increased the amount of funding provided to FCM GMF. Some of the key areas for the city include:
- FCM is preparing to announce a new program valued at \$530 M. The program is currently in design phase to accommodate smaller projects that don't qualify for Infrastructure Canada's Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund where project minimum is \$1 M. The funding is anticipated to be available for three streams:
    - Track 1: Build Capacity –
      - Climate Ready Plans and processes
      - Not only one department but integration
      - MAP Grants – Integrate existing systems but will release this year
    - Track 2: Pilot Project and operational –
      - Will fund operational funding – i.e. extend the hours cooling centres
      - Funding Lower than \$1 M
    - Track 3: Financing Adaptation - Grants and concessional financing
  - Investigate Funding from the Climate Institute
- c. GMF Green Municipal Fund
- There were many opportunities to discuss an abundant of funding programs with FCM staff. This includes FCM's Green Municipal Fund which is a \$1.6 B program funded by the Government of Canada. It supports municipalities and their partners, through capacity-building and funding, to reduce pollution, improve energy efficiency, and revitalize public infrastructure. Some of the new programs include:
    - Retrofit and new construction of sustainable affordable housing
    - Retrofits and new builds of energy efficient municipal and community buildings
    - Pilot and capital projects using recovered or renewable thermal energy in new or existing facilities
    - Planning grants and feasibility studies for early-stage energy projects

More information on FCM GMF programs is included for information (attachment 4).

### **Best Practice of Canadian Cities**

1. Urban Reforestation - City of Charlottetown
  - Planted 11,000 public trees
  - Divided in phases
    - Developed a “Climate Risk and Resiliency Report” (2019 Completed with Quest as consultants)
    - Phase 1 of the Climate Action Plan: Discoveries involved benchmarking stakeholder engagement, survey and background research (2022/2023 – Completed)
    - Phase 2 Climate Action Plan: currently underway
2. Heat Centres Reduction - City of Laval
  - Heat mapping of the city as well as carbon release mapping across the city
  - Targeted shopping centres – 70 percent emissions from cars – must decrease the heat centres
  - Must set up staff teams that target the most vulnerable (weather in Laval is from -40 to +40)
  - Extreme events – back to back snowfall and then ice storms – then melts
  - Thermal cameras – determine load of parking and industrial areas
3. Risk Based Partnership Tables - Northwest Territories
  - So many cities in crisis all at once – permafrost thaw, flooding, wildfires, storm, wastewater management
  - Multiple impact on assets
  - Developed risk based partnership tables
  - We all need to prepare needs based feasibility studies – collect data - as much as possible
4. Sustainable Asset Management/ Replacement - City of Selkirk
  - Assets need replacing – grow more sustainable
  - This is not a sprint, not a marathon but a relay race
  - Make it boring so it gets done
  - Climate change adaptation strategy – documentary
  - Trees are categorized and mapped similar to pipes
  - Manage storm water and heat
  - Focus on buildings for resilience and extreme weather respite
  - Separate sewer systems
  - Prepare for land drainage – extreme events in the spring
  - Prepare for overland flooding – plant new trees
  - Use species bio diversity
  - Target neighbourhoods with less income to increase tree canopy

- Focus on the Naturalization of areas
- GHG reduction – all buildings off carbon fuels – moving toward equity

### **Keynote Address – The Honourable Justin Trudeau Prime Minister**

- Municipal governments are facing unprecedented times – growth, mental health challenges, homelessness
- We need housing NOW with our targets doubled at least  
Federal government has invested at least \$4 Billion to date to be partners but we need faster and more ambitious targets. The federal government will keep pushing provinces and territories to deliver more.
- Municipal governments need to make the changes within their control as well. This includes zoning reforms, meeting the needs of the missing middle and the federal government forming partnerships with non-profits and municipalities. We need to be strategic with densification around logical areas especially around rapid transit.
- We are working toward permanent public transit for cities across the country.
- We want you to know you can count on the Federal Government.
- Cities need to work on creating housing that people need including legalizing multiplexes in all neighbourhoods.
- We can't close our eyes – we all have capacity and duty to change
- Our communities need to be stronger and more diverse and this aligns with our long term vision and beliefs.
- The Federal government has invested \$180 Billion in Canada Clean Technology growth and more opportunities for cities will continue to emerge.
- The federal government will continue to support the municipal infrastructure needed for more housing. Examples include the soon to be released Housing Accelerator Fund.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic identified many issues for our country - To lead is to choose – put nimbyism aside and place people at the centre

### **Federal Ministry Presentations**

#### **A. Canada Infrastructure Bank**

- 50 projects currently funded across the country
- Projects need to be shovel ready – feasibility completed
- For Green infrastructure (ie. District energy or electrical grid expansion) the typical loan \$100 M
- Projects can be aggregated of multiple projects smaller in scale

Green energy: Contact: Sashen Guneratna

- Takes the risk away from the municipality - Loan is to focus on the cost gap for full build out faster and based on savings over the lifespan of the project based on building the project earlier with federal funds– if the savings are not generated then you don't have to pay them back



- Six municipalities already accessing funding for district energy from – including Richmond, BC
- Risk on savings makes it worth while

Building Retrofits: Contact: Aaron Berg

- Building Retrofit Initiative: Investment aggregator
- Buildings from a 2030 perspective. This includes: Resiliency retrofit, Accessibility retrofit and typical Ameresco retrofits

Where to start:

- Get ready – understand debt capacity
- Get Council approval for the project
- Evaluate buildings/ projects
- Financial flexibility – can you get certainty of financing without certainty of provincial financing or other funding.

B. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

- We are facing a crisis of affordability for our most vulnerable. CMHC provides innovation and a toolkit for municipalities. They have created a Foresight Team to rethink and reframe opportunity for municipal governments.
- Municipalities are ready to deliver and we want to be a good partner
- In discussions with CMHC staff, they are aware our staff are preparing an application to the Housing Accelerator Fund. They are impressed with the level of innovation and commitment from our planning staff.

### Other Opportunities for New Westminster

1. McGill University - Pilot Heat Modeling

- The Circular Homebuilding initiative aims to foster a circular economy in the housing industry in Canada. It was founded by Professors Naomi Keena and Avi Friedman of McGill's School of Architecture. They work to provide the data needed to facilitate evidence-based design decision-making for affordable and sustainable housing. They are looking for a pilot site and New Westminster appears to meet their criteria if the city is interested.

<https://www.mcgill.ca/tised/tisedtalk-circular-economy-and-built-environment-housing-data>

2. MyHEAT Imagery

- MyHEAT is a Canadian company offering Heat Loss Maps and to quickly identify building energy loss across entire cities. MyHEAT also offers Solar Maps to show rooftop solar potential and savings estimates.

<https://myheat.ca/>

3. Natural Resources Canada

- Energy Efficiency: Innovation in the fields of housing, building, communities, industry, and transportation can take advantage of the benefits of energy

efficiency, such as lower energy costs, cutting emissions, improving operating performance, and increasing asset values. <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-efficiency/10832>

- Canada's first National Adaptation Strategy <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy.html>
- Canada in a Changing Climate <https://changingclimate.ca/>
- British Columbia Regional Perspective Report <https://changingclimate.ca/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2020/11/British-Columbia-Regional-Perspective-Report-.pdf>

#### 4. NRB Modular Solutions

- NRB Modular, part of the Dexterra Group, is a turn key supplier of modular buildings. We provide everything from kiosks, schools, police stations, to multi story housing projects. We have four manufacturing plants across Canada and have provided over 50+ housing builds for various municipalities. <https://nrbmodular.com/>

#### 5. UBC Housing Assessment Resource Tools (HART)

- HART is working with governments, housing providers, and advocates across Canada to redefine how we measure and address housing need. It includes Housing Needs Assessment Tool, Land Assessment Tool and Property Acquisitions Tool. <https://hart.ubc.ca/>

#### 6. University of Laval

- The Department of Geography of Université Laval presents its project on Mapping the vulnerability and exposure to extreme heat waves of populations living in housing in Canadian communities. One hundred and fifty-six urban areas of Canada are covered by the project. <https://vaguesdechaleur.ffgg.ulaval.ca/en/>

#### 7. Wetland Treatment Solutions

- Specialized Engineered Wetland Treatment company, with designs achieving FCM and numerous other awards. Providing studies, designs, turn-key and operational support for treatment of municipal sewage, stormwater, and landfill leachate with the goal to achieve zero cost to operate, 100% sustainable. <http://wetlandtreatment.ca/>

#### 8. Statistics Canada

- Statistics Canada is the national statistical office. The agency ensures Canadians have the key information on Canada's economy, society and environment that they require to function effectively as citizens and decision makers. <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/start>

## 9. Level Playing Field

- Level Playing Field is an accessibility consulting firm headquartered in Calgary, Alberta. Founded in 2015, LPF has worked on over 200 projects throughout various industries across Canada and North America, combining international accessible standards, guidelines, lived experience, and best practices to craft inclusive spaces that meet the user needs of all people, regardless of age, circumstance, or ability. <https://www.levelplayingfield.ca/>

Overall the FCM Convention was an excellent opportunity to identify new opportunity, build networks and align current direction of the city with senior governments. Continuing to align with senior government funding for affordable housing and other key projects in the Five Year Financial Plan will continue to advance the short and long term objectives of the city.

Staff continue to follow up on opportunities identified at the FCM Convention.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Successful federal funding identified to support existing City projects will advance the sustainability principles of the City.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The FCM AC 2023 provides an opportunity for the City to enhance and offset City funding for key strategic projects.

## **INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON**

This report was created in liaison with Climate Action, Planning and Development Department and the CAO's Office.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Council accept the following report on the opportunities identified from the FCM Annual Convention 2023 for information.
2. Council provide alternate direction.

Staff recommend option #1.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2023 Annual Conference and Trade Show took place from May 25 to 28th 2023 in Toronto, Ontario. It is the largest pan-Canadian gathering of elected officials assembled to address a range of municipal

issues. This report summarizes several potential opportunities for follow up, based on Council and staff priorities. Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) staff provided support to Council attending the convention.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: FCM AC 2023 Program workshop

Attachment 2: Trade Show Delegates

Attachment 3: Focus Funding Programs based on Council Priorities

Attachment 4: FCM GMF Programs

### **APPROVALS**

This report was prepared by:

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This report was approved by:

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer