



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 25-118**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Councillor Conny Glenn
Date of Meeting: April 1, 2025
Subject: March 2025 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board (FCM)
Meeting Update

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Corporate business

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

From March 17 - 20 the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) held their March Board meeting in Dorval Quebec. Councillor Conny Glenn, as the City's representative on three FCM subcommittees attended the board meeting.

Over the three days, the FCM Board discussed the evolving geo-political situation with the United States, adoption of FCM's strategic plan and their federal election strategy. More information is described in the options and discussion section of this report.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Options/Discussion:**Evolving Political Situation with the United States**

The backdrop of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) March Board meeting was largely the evolving situation with the United States, tariffs and reciprocal tariffs. Over the last several months FCM has been extensively involved in the conversations with the Canadian government and U.S. Counterparts. In February a delegation of FCM representatives travelled to Washington alongside Canada's Premier's to discuss the tariff threat and how it could negatively impact both countries.

Prior to the federal election call, FCM engaged with the new Prime Minister and key cabinet ministers to continue advancing municipal advocacy priorities. However, they are now pivoting to their election strategy and engaging all parties on key municipal priorities.

FCM's Strategic Plan 2025 - 2028

During the March Board meeting members approved FCM's three-year strategic plan. This plan was developed after extensive engagement and consultation with municipalities over the past year including a national public survey on priorities of Canadians, FCM membership survey, employee engagement survey, a board workshop and dedicated strategy session and a CEO listening tour and stakeholder consultations engaging federal, provincial, territorial and private sector partners. It also included internal equity and Reconciliation frameworks to ensure that principles of inclusion and Reconciliation inform FCM's long-term strategy.

Over the next three years FCM will focus on four key areas including:

- Unleashing the economic potential of cities and communities
- Strengthening local capacity and scaling municipal impact
- Deepening unity to drive progress
- Building a high-performance future-ready FCM

More information on the specific action items and details of FCM's strategic plan will be available in the coming months.

FCM's Election Strategy – Stronger Together – Local Strength, National Prosperity

Board members were briefed on FCM's Federal Election strategy which includes an increased focus on the need to build a more resilient Canada. Their objectives for the campaign are to promote local communities as Canada's engines of prosperity, positioning municipalities as trusted and responsible frontline government partners focused on Canadians' priorities, empowering and engaging members, and building government, public and stakeholder awareness and support for key municipal priorities.

FCM's federal election advocacy priorities include:

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- Supporting local economic growth and resilience
- Investing in infrastructure renewal
- Achieving housing affordability
- Ending homelessness
- Keeping communities safe
- Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure

FCM will also be creating an election microsite for their advocacy, priorities, resources, social media, communication tools and more. They will also be sending out a weekly newsletter to members 'On the Campaign Trail' which will summarize key federal election pledges and their impact on municipalities.

FCM Board Resolutions

The Board also passed several resolutions including:

- Urging the federal government to improve accessibility under the Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations by allowing food vendors to offer an "accessible straw"—a flexible plastic straw that is individually wrapped in paper—upon request. Additionally, retailers should be permitted to display packages of flexible plastic straws in stores, and flexible plastic straws should be allowed to be attached to beverage containers, such as drink boxes.
- Requesting that the federal government provide funding and establish a coordinating body to oversee the development of a flushability standard. This process should be managed through a Standards Council of Canada-accredited organization and be completed within five years.
- Encourage federal political parties to incorporate into their electoral platforms a mandate for cellular service providers to establish roaming agreements. This would enable customers to access cellular towers in their area, regardless of their provider.

Background

FCM has been the national voice of municipal government since 1901. FCM members include more than 2,100 municipalities of all sizes, from Canada's cities and rural communities to northern communities and 20 provincial and territorial municipal associations. Together, they represent more than 92 percent of all Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Municipal leaders from across Canada assemble each year to set FCM policy on key issues.

Canadian municipalities came together in 1901 as the Union of Canadian Municipalities (UCM). The Dominion Conference of Mayors was established in 1935 and by 1937 the two national bodies joined as the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities—renamed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in 1976.

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Today, FCM advocates for municipalities to be sure their citizens' needs are reflected in federal policies and programs. Year after year, their work benefits every municipal government and taxpayer in Canada, and their programming delivers tools that help municipalities tackle local challenges.

Council Glenn was selected as the City of Kingston representative on three FCM subcommittees in the summer of 2024. These subcommittees are Rural Forum, Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion and Social Economic Development. Councillor Glenn will also be seeking election to the FCM Board in May of 2025.

Contacts:

Holly Wilson, Manager of Government Relations, 613-546-4291 extension 1402

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

None

Exhibits Attached:

None