

Update: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

Initiative Title: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

City Council Lead(s):

- **Councillor B. Esslinger:** Board Member; Chair of International Relations; Increasing Women’s Participation in Municipal Government; Community Safety and Crime Prevention; Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus; Governance Representative for Ukraine.
 - **Councillor B. Henderson:** Non-Board member, Chair of FCM’s Green Municipal Fund; Urban Aboriginal Issues Working Group; Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development; Social-Economic Development; Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus; Conference Planning.
 - **Mayor D. Iveson:** Chair of Big City Mayors’ Caucus (BCMC); Member, Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST)
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Objective

The City of Edmonton continues to work with FCM on information sharing, proactive identification and advocacy of City priorities and issues of shared interest.

Key outcomes, projects or activities and their status as of June 2021

Board Meeting and Advocacy Days - November 17-26, 2020

This meeting was held virtually over the course of ten days, instead of the usual annual “three-day blitz of Parliament Hill” in Ottawa. Elected board members from across Canada engaged with each other and conducted meetings with a number of federal cabinet ministers and leaders of the opposition parties. It came ahead of the federal budget season, so it was a key opportunity to launch FCM’s next round of political advocacy with the minority Liberal government.

Big City Mayors’ Caucus (BCMC) Meeting - February 8-9, 2021

This meeting focused on advocacy for big city priorities at a strategic time in the federal budget cycle. The mayors of the country’s largest cities had an opportunity to dialogue with members of the federal cabinet, including the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Based on those discussions the mayors were encouraged that they have a

federal partner who is prepared to work with municipalities on an economic recovery from the pandemic.

Board Meeting - March 9-12, 2021

This Board meeting came in advance of the Liberal minority government's first budget (the 2020 budget was postponed due to the onset of the pandemic). Some time was spent discussing a Budget 2021 advocacy strategy, including municipal asks for municipal operating budget shortfalls, escalation of rapid housing support, and infrastructure funding tools.

The Urban Project - April 15, 2021

This is the fourth time that big city mayors and urban experts met to explore best practices and emerging trends on a specific national urban issue. The focus at this meeting was on mental health and the role of cities, hosted (virtually) by the City of Calgary. Previous sessions addressed active transportation and transit, housing affordability and innovative economies. The Urban Project is a national research partnership on urban issues, sponsored by FCM and a number of national foundations.

Big City Mayors' Caucus (BCMC) Meeting - May 31, 2021

This was the first gathering of big city mayors since the Liberal budget which contained some key municipal priorities such as a new permanent transit fund and another one-time doubling of the Gas Tax Fund (renamed Canada Community-Building Fund). This was Mayor Iveson's last as Chair of BCMC, a post he has held for almost five years.

FCM Annual Conference - June 1-4, 2021

Leaders from all the major political parties spoke to conference delegates, with an emphasis on their respective platforms ahead of an anticipated federal election in the next year. The conference also featured the usual workshops on a variety of municipal topics, as well as the FCM Annual General Meeting. This was Councillor Henderson's last conference; he has served FCM in various capacities - Board member, Committee member, Chair of Green Municipal Fund - for over a decade.

Evaluation and Recommendation:

- Edmonton elected officials have and will continue to represent the municipality on the FCM board and various other sub-committees going forward.
- The City will continue to work with FCM in advancing municipal priorities and areas of shared interest.