

Council Members' Updates on Agency and Initiative Appointments – B14

Update: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

Initiative Title: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

City Council Lead(s):

- **Councillor B. Esslinger:** Board Member, Committee of the Whole, Vice Chair of International Relations, Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government, Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Prairies Territories Regional Caucus, Governance Representative for Asia.
 - **Councillor B. Henderson:** Non-Board member, Conference Planning, Chair of FCM's Green Municipal Fund, Urban Aboriginal Issues Working Group, Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development, Social-Economic Development
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Objective:

The City of Edmonton continues to work with the FCM on proactive identification and advocacy of City priorities and issues of shared interest. Both parties continue to collaborate and share information on issues of mutual benefit.

Key outcomes, projects or activities and their status as of July 4, 2017:

- **Annual Conference, June 1-4, 2017, Ottawa:**
 - There was a great focus on municipal leadership at this year's conference and how city building is directly related to nation building in which local officials play a pivotal role. Minister Sohi emphasized the growing role of municipal leadership and its impact on problem solving at a national and international scale.
 - Affordable Housing and poverty reduction was a focus for ministers and other elected officials at this year's conference.
 - As part of the Northern and Remote Forum, EndPoverty Edmonton's Kate Gunn, was one of the panelists in a presentation discussing strategies, successes and challenges.
 - The City is aligned with FCM's perspectives on poverty reduction across Canada and their recommendations to the federal government on the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy.
 - In a session on Reconciliation Through Economic Development, Mayor Iveson and Chief Morin of the Enoch Cree Nation shared their experiences on relationship building and collaboration through various mediums including meetings, cultural events, formal agreements, etc. These efforts strengthen their ability to better understand each

community's perspectives, positions and priorities and essentially, help strengthen a more effective partnership.

- **Partnership for Municipal Innovation - Local Economic Development (PMI-LED) Vietnam:**

- The City of Edmonton has been selected to be part of the new Partnership for Municipal Innovation - Local Economic Development (PMI-LED) Vietnam project. Edmonton and the City of Rossland, B.C. will be partnered with the Vietnamese cities of Can Tho and Can Lanh and work with them on building strategies for local economic development.
- Councillor Bev Esslinger, is the FCM board representative who oversees the PMI-LED's programming in Asia and she visited the region in May.
- Councillor Ben Henderson, Paul Ross, Branch Manager and Ken Mamczasz, Director in Regional and Economic Development Department participated in the inaugural PMI-LED Vietnam mission the last week of June 2017 and shared Edmonton's experiences in Local Economic Development.

- **Partnership for Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance (PLEDDG) Ukraine:**

- In March of 2017, Kent McMullin, Senior Business Strategist, Regional and Economic Development traveled to Ukraine (city of Vinnytsia and Kyiv) to participate as a content expert on Small, Medium Enterprise (SME) Development and Growth at a forum that brought together City Development Institutes (CDI) from across Ukraine. Mr. McMullin discussed the SMEs role in Local Economic Development (LED) and how LED agencies and programs (Business Link, Startup Edmonton, Tec Edmonton, Business Retention and Facilitation programs, and the Corner Stores and Facade Improvement programs) support SME growth.
- Mr. McMullin also shared information on the benefits of having a national professional association for LED professionals, referencing his participation on the Board of Economic Developers Alberta. He provided advice to local partners and PLEDDG regarding the further development of SME programming and of creating a membership-based LED professional association in Ukraine.
- Edmonton will be partnered with the City of Vinnytsa to provide guidance as they build a business incubator. This will be a similar work that Edmonton provided to the City of Lviv and the creation of Ukraine's first municipal business incubator, Startup Depot.
- In May of 2017, Christian Felske, Technical Specialist, Blatchford Renewable Energy Utility - traveled to Ukraine (city of Zaporizhia and Kyiv) to participate as a content expert on Sustainable and Integrated Waste Management at the EcoForum in the city of Zaporizhia. Mr. Felske made a presentation and shared information on the various innovative waste management solutions (incl. investment-attraction), based on

Edmonton's successes. He provided advice to local partners and PLEDDG regarding the further development of environmental measures, including waste management options in the city of Zaporizhia. Mr. Felske also participated in the Environment Sustainability Committee meeting of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC). The committee discussed ways to increase the role of AUC in securing environmental sustainability in their member communities, as well as implementing best ES practices at the local level. Several local companies approached Mr. Felske to learn more about alternative waste processing technologies, such as composting.

- **Increasing Women's Participation in Local Government:**
 - **Diverse Voices for Change:**
 - The City has been selected as one of five municipalities to participate in the two year project. FCM hosted a two day workshop on April 6-7 with diverse female leaders.
 - **WAVE:**
 - WAVE annual report will be going to Community and Public Services Committee in July 2017.
 - The next Women's Symposium is planned for February 2018.
 - **Women@theCity:** With the support of City Manager, Linda Cochrane and Councillor Esslinger this group of over 50 City women explored the opportunities, issues and experiences of women in the workplace. The focused areas are:
 - Networking (mentoring/information)
 - Research (career planning/policies)
 - Communication
- **Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI):**
 - Inspired by the CEDI process, The City and Enoch Cree Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding on March 10, 2017. This broadly-focused, principle-based relationship document commits both parties to a long-term working relationship.
 - Approximately 50 people; elected officials, senior leaders and staff from the City and Enoch Cree Nation participated in a joint community economic development workshop on March 10, 2017. Participants determined it would be most strategic to explore joint opportunities in sports and recreation as well as tourism; including cultural tourism.
 - A possible collaboration around the Woodbend-Big Island Natural Area was specifically identified. Further exploration of the Woodbend-Big Island opportunity is being explored with City staff, Parkland County, Enoch Cree Nation, River Valley Alliance and North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society participating.

Future Steps:

- **FCM Board meeting: September 12-15 in Wood Buffalo, Alberta**

- FCM Board meeting: November 21-24 in Ottawa, Ontario

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 the FCM in advancing municipal priorities and areas of shared interest.