

COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT REPORTING

Appointment: Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Classification: External Agency - Intergovernmental

Councillor(s): Councillor Sarah Hamilton

Reporting Period: June 3, 2022 - April 30, 2023

Mandate

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) brings together more than 2,100 municipalities representing over 92 per cent of Canadians to ensure municipal and local needs are reflected in federal policies and programs. FCM has a growing track [record](#) of advocacy success with the federal government and the City of Edmonton utilizes FCM's relationships and expertise to help advance our own priorities with the federal government. In addition to the network and relationship building opportunities provided by conferences and workshops, FCM provides resources and funding to help municipal leaders build climate resilient and fiscally sustainable communities.

FCM recognizes that strengthening Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples requires a long-term, national effort from all orders of government. Across the country, city and town councils are taking the lead in implementing the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation commission. FCM works with Indigenous organizations to increase collaboration between First Nations communities and neighbouring municipalities.

Background

The City of Edmonton appoints one council member to serve as representatives on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors. Councillor Hamilton was reappointed as the City of Edmonton's Nominee to FCM's Board of Directors on March 14, 2023. In addition to being a director, Councillor Hamilton sits on four committees: Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus, Governance Working Group, Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development and Standing Committee on International Relations (Vice Chair). As Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on International Relations, Councillor Hamilton is working with FCM staff to enhance the committee's relationship with Global Affairs Canada. The Committee has also provided a forum to share Edmonton's success and challenges in resettling Ukrainian refugees and our ongoing work to address racism and hate.

Mayor Sohi is the City's representative on FCM's caucus of big city mayors that brings together representatives from 23 of Canada's biggest cities.

Shared priorities and advocacy areas

FCM and the City of Edmonton have close coordination on policy advocacy efforts. Some of the key priorities include, but are not limited to:

- Housing

- Swift and effective rollout of the Housing Accelerator Fund, rapid advancement of the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, and continued investment in Rapid Housing Initiative and Reaching Home.
- Inclusive communities
 - Adopted statement on anti-racism.
 - Ukrainian and refugee settlement
 - Addressing online hate and racism, Women in Leadership
- Indigenous partnerships
 - Close the Indigenous infrastructure gap to improve quality of life for Indigenous communities.
- Climate and sustainability
 - National Adaptation Strategy
 - Increase the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund.
- Infrastructure, public transit, rail safety
 - New dedicated water infrastructure fund that would invest \$1 billion annually over the next ten years, \$500 million annually for municipal community, culture and recreational infrastructure, and creation of a Universal Broadband Fund.
 - Treating gas tax as a municipal contribution for the purpose of federal stacking rules into standing FCM policy.
- Public safety, opioid crisis
 - RCMP retroactive costs, increased access to mental health and addiction services
 - Reducing recidivism

Report on activities, projects, and outcomes

Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting - June 3-5, 2022

The Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting were held in Regina, Saskatchewan. The Conference was well attended in its first year back since the pandemic. As part of the AGM, a new board of directors was elected, including Taneen Rudyk, a Councillor from Vegreville, Alberta, who was elected President. Edmonton sponsored a resolution advocating that the federal government implement a national period poverty task force to develop a comprehensive long-term response in Canada. Edmonton was also represented on a number of panels and workshops.

Board Meeting - September 15, 2022

Board members heard from peers on who are generating creative solutions to Canada's housing affordability and homelessness crisis. Board members also approved the Anti-Racism and Equity Commitment Statement recognizing FCM's responsibility and opportunity to drive change as a national federation. The board also discussed climate action, including the increased frequency of extreme weather events and the need for better local preparedness.

Motions passed include: encouraging the transition towards carbon neutrality by 2050, taking action to reduce pollution caused by scrubbers, updating federal regulations on municipal consultation on aerodrome approvals and encouraging members to endorse the municipal recommendations to address Islamophobia. The board also received updates from the various standing committees.

Advocacy Days - December 6-7, 2022 in Ottawa

Municipal leaders from across Canada, including Councillor Paquette and Mayor Sohi, engaged with other municipal officials and conducted meetings with a number of federal cabinet ministers and opposition members of parliament to advance the City's and FCM's 2023 budget [priorities](#).

Sustainable Communities Conference - February 7-10, 2023

Elected and administrative municipal officials from across Canada gathered in Ottawa (or online) to learn from one another about the work being done to address climate change at the local level. In addition to the resources and knowledge gained, municipal officials had an opportunity to meet with federal officials and private sector experts to discuss and share best practices.

Board Meeting - March 9, 2023

In addition to approving the 2023-24 Corporate Plan, the board of directors reviewed its advocacy strategy and discussed budget priorities ahead of the 2023 federal budget. Motions passed include: supporting national licensure for healthcare professionals, federal action on disposable wipes, enhanced protection of waterways from aquatic invasive species, and greater regulation for world class shipbreaking.

The board received updates from the various committees, including from the Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention. This committee received an update on the issue of repeat offenders and their impacts on community safety, which has been a growing concern for municipalities across the country.

Upcoming events and milestones

FCM's 2023 Annual Conference will be held in Toronto from May 25-28. Leaders from all the major political parties are expected to speak to conference delegates as part of the [full conference program](#).

FCM's 2024 Annual Conference will be held in Calgary from June 6-9 and FCM's 2025 Annual Conference will be held in Ottawa from May 28 - June 1.

Dates for future Sustainable Cities Conferences have yet to be announced.

Evaluation

It is recommended that the City of Edmonton continue to work with FCM to advance municipal priorities and areas of shared interest, and that Councillors continue their involvement in annual conventions, leadership caucuses and resolution-building.