

Lenora

From: FCM President <communiqu@fcm.ca>
Sent: November-01-13 1:11 PM
To: Lenora
Subject: President's Corner Update
Attachments: logo.jpg; facebook.jpg; linked-in.jpg; twitter.jpg; presidents_corner_a_EN.gif; footer_logo.jpg

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President's Corner



Dear members,

This report summarizes my activities over the past two months.

Annual Meetings of Our Provincial-Territorial Partner Associations

As president of FCM, I make a point of going to many of the annual meetings of our provincial and territorial partner associations.

During the month of September, I attended the annual meetings of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM). One of my goals at these meetings was to talk about the activities of the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group as well as the federal government's new infrastructure investment plan and the need for it to be implemented in time for the 2014 construction season.

I took the opportunity to renew the partnership between FCM and UBCM with UBCM President Rhona Martin and Past President Mary Sjostrom, and I was warmly welcomed by FQM President Bernard Généreux.

Federal Government

On September 23, I had a very promising telephone meeting with the Minister of Employment and Social Development, the Honourable Jason Kenney, on the topic of housing affordability, one of FCM's main issues this year. The Minister assured us of his commitment to continue working with FCM on this major issue and confirmed that we will have a second meeting soon. FCM has just launched a national campaign, under the title *Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch*. I encourage you to visit FCM's website to learn how you can support the campaign – for example, by passing a resolution or spreading the word on social networks.

On September 30, I had a very positive and productive meeting with the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Lisa Raitt, to discuss rail safety. Minister Raitt acknowledged the need for intervention in the three priority areas established by FCM's National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group.

Thanks to FCM's efforts and leadership, the federal government renewed its commitment in its Throne Speech to enhance the safe transport of hazardous materials and require that shippers and rail companies have additional insurance coverage, which directly addresses the demands of FCM's rail safety working group.

The government has in addition committed to continue promoting the excellent Housing First approach and to renewing its strategy to address homelessness and help vulnerable Canadians meet their need for housing. We look forward to continuing to work with the federal government to transform these commitments into concrete action as quickly as possible.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of our members who were re-elected in the recent municipal elections in Alberta and take this opportunity to thank Karen Leibovici, our 2012-13 president, for her many years of excellent work for FCM. And I wish everyone who is standing as a candidate in the Quebec elections on November 3 the very best of luck.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this monthly message, and especially those of you who send me comments and suggestions. I will send my next message just before FCM's Board meeting and Advocacy Days in late-November, and I look forward to updating you then on my activities.

Best regards,

Claude Dauphin
President, FCM

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