

## **The Corporation of the Township of Brock**

### **Councillor Conference Report**

**Report Prepared by: Regional Councillor Jubb**

**Date: 10 June 2024**

**Conference Name- Federation of Canadian Municipalities**

**Conference Date and Location- 06-09 June 2024**

#### **About the FCM annual conference-**

I had the pleasure of attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2024 Conference. This was the first time I have attended the FCM conference. The conference was an extremely valuable information and learning experience which saw over 1,000 municipal elected officials and staff from all over Canada attend. I attended many sessions throughout the four-day period. As always, I find that the networking is of utmost importance. Whether it is talking to Ministers, Mayors, other council members or senior staff, I learned so much of how business is done throughout the province, at the municipal level and are all issues that are front and center in Brock. Again, it is very rare to have the access to so much knowledge in one room. The main priority of the FCM is advocating higher levels of government for a new funding model. Educationally, I will highlight some of the key sessions I attended and some important conversations I had throughout the two days.

#### **Overview of some of the many sessions I attended and key learnings-**

### **Shifting to resilient, net-zero communities: Leveraging the Green Municipal Fund**

Explore the remarkable transformations across the country as communities—big and small—progress towards equitable, resilient and net-zero futures. Discover the factors that make a project successful, valuable lessons learned and how communities are advancing solutions to achieve environmental, social and economic goals. Learn how the Green Municipal Fund's financing, funding and capacity-building solutions can assist your community in turning sustainability goals into reality.

### **Redefining our Future: The urgent need for a Municipal Growth Framework**

Amid rapid national population growth and increased challenges— specifically in housing and infrastructure—municipalities need innovative solutions to address local needs essential for the well-being of all Canadians. FCM is advocating for a new Municipal Growth Framework to help achieve federal housing targets and ensure communities have the necessary infrastructure and services. This panel will dive into ongoing projects and the collaborative efforts needed from all orders of government to build sustainable communities now and in the future.

## Healthy Workplaces: Attracting and retaining municipal talent

In a short time, the pandemic has reshaped our work paradigms and the delivery of municipal services, putting unprecedented pressure on the health and well-being of elected officials and municipal employees. As a result, this shift has increased demands on HR professionals and introduced challenges in recruiting and retaining municipal talent. Hear from our panelists as we break down these barriers and explore ways to enhance inclusive and healthy workplaces and advocate for robust mental health support systems.

## Towards complete communities: A conversation about sustainable land use planning

This session explores sustainable land-use planning by looking at how municipalities are increasing housing through densification, building complete communities with integrated public transit systems. Engage with experts as they discuss innovative approaches to growing healthy, connected and sustainable neighborhoods.

## Evolving practices: How to foster innovation in the municipal sector

Local governments are at the heart of citizen concerns. They provide essential services against a backdrop of escalating demands and constrained resources. To meet these challenges, municipal leaders and staff must shift toward more proactive, resilient and innovative approaches in public service delivery. Join our panel discussion as we explore the importance of experimentation, pilot projects and strategic foresight in driving innovation within the public sector. We will also address strategies for enhancing adaptability and durability of municipal public service, ensuring it effectively responds to community needs.

## Rural Plenary- Fires and floods: Planning for extreme weather events

Extreme weather events are affecting more Canadians than ever, with municipalities— especially those in rural, northern and remote regions—seeking strategies for preparedness and response. This discussion will offer insights into disaster response, community support and the recovery process.

## Building Bridges: First Nations, Metis, Inuit-municipal collaboration

Building Bridges: First Nations, Métis, Inuit-municipal collaboration sharing on the following topics: Overview of Policy and Public Affairs (PPA) at FCM Role of FCM in advocating for municipalities Importance of municipal perspectives in national decision-making processes Focus areas of FCM's advocacy efforts Facilitation of dialogue between municipalities, federal government officials, and stakeholders Opportunities for collaboration and partnership between Indigenous leaders, community partners, FCM, and municipalities Let's learn from each other: This information will provide insight into how municipalities advocate for their interests federally. It also highlights opportunities for collaboration with FCM and municipalities to address shared challenges, enhancing engagement and advocacy efforts with the federal government. Together, let's embark on a discussion of mutual understanding and potential collaboration, as we explore ways to cultivate positive change within our communities.

## Ask the Experts: Enhancing rural connectivity: bridging the digital divide in rural communities

Join industry leaders from across Canada and the United States to explore the latest advancements in rural connectivity. Discover how cutting-edge cellular network technologies and significant network investments are bringing unprecedented, fibre-like speeds to rural homes without the need for traditional wiring. Our panel will discuss how these innovations are providing more broadband options to Canadians, ensuring that we can all be connected.

## Capital as a catalyst: Community adaptation to climate risks

The Green Municipal Fund is gearing up to introduce Financing Adaptation—a funding opportunity under its Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation initiative—amidst escalating climate risks nationally and globally. This workshop dives into innovative financial strategies for enhancing climate resilience by brokering strategic partnerships between local governments and private investors. Hear from investors, the Green Municipal Fund and communities leveraging private capital to expand public sector financial capacity. By working together to accelerate the necessary de-risking projects, local governments and private organizations can help safeguard communities of all sizes for the future.

### **Summary-**

All and all, I cannot stress how important the FCM is to serving members of council. Programming is very different, year by year, and is intended specifically for elected officials and staff. It is important to note that this does come as a cost to the taxpayer, however, I firmly believe the knowledge obtained saves the municipality in the long run. We are not reinventing the wheels in many issues and the information learned can save many hours of staff time and resources.

**Recommendations-** Move that this report be received for information.

Regional Councillor Jubb

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Reviewed by,

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Chief Administrative Officer