



FEDERATION
OF CANADIAN
MUNICIPALITIES

FÉDÉRATION
CANADIENNE DES
MUNICIPALITÉS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
September 2013

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Delta St. John's
St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador

Friday, September 6, 2013
Refer to the Summary of Meetings for time and location

AGENDA

1. Chair's remarks and introduction of new members Oral
2. Approval of agenda Oral
3. Approval of Report of the March 2013 Meeting..... Pg.3
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**REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

Ramada Downtown Prince George Hotel
Prince George, British Columbia
Friday, March 8, 2013

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The Chair welcomed the Committee to Prince George and wished all Committee members a happy International Women's Day.

The Committee discussed and approved with amendments, a resolution supporting national data collection of transient workers. The Committee also approved the proposed Policy Statement.

The Chair led a discussion about FCM's housing policy in order to bring some consensus around and provide direction to FCM's upcoming advocacy focus on housing. Members agreed that long-term, national strategies, matched by funding by all orders of government, remain at the core of meeting Canada's affordable housing needs.

The Committee recognized that moving forward, it is important to frame the housing debate in terms of sustainable solutions and the improved economic and social outcomes of meeting housing needs across the housing spectrum. It was also recognized that housing is not just the concern of larger cities but also for smaller, rural and northern communities. The Committee agreed that a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities for cities and communities lie in having the data and facts about the costs of both action and inaction.

Alex Long with National Programs provided the Committee with an update on the Municipal and First Nations Community Infrastructure Partnership Program and FCM's newest related program, the Community Economic Development Initiative. City of Vancouver Councillor Heather Deal took the opportunity to inform the Committee of Vancouver's proclamation of the Year of Reconciliation" with indigenous peoples.

The Chair provided an update on the Urban Aboriginal Strategy Working Group. The Working Group is focused on bringing together best practices in working with and supporting aboriginal Canadians living in urban centres with the view to future policy or programs. The Working Group is inviting all interested committee members to meet again at the Conference in May to discuss next steps.

The Committee heard and discussed Red Deer Councillor Paul Harris's presentation on equity and inequality in setting policy. Councillor Harris highlighting the relation between income levels and social outcomes and invited members to consider framing our policy issues in terms of solutions and opportunities instead of problems.

FCM Policy Operations Manager, Shannon Watt, provided an update of FCM's work to monitor emerging food policy issues. The Conference Board of Canada is undertaking a three year consultation on a food strategy for Canada. FCM has been successful in pushing

the Conference Board to broaden the scope of its study and to be more inclusive of a broader range of stakeholder groups. The strategy is expected to be released this fall. Updates are available on the Board's website at

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/cfic/foodstrategy.aspx>

Vice-Chair Réjean Laforest led a discussion about recent changes to Employment Insurance regulations concerning seasonal workers and the impact on municipalities. Members agreed there are growing concerns around the issue that staff should investigate further. The Committee has refer the issue to executive for their consideration.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for adoption:

1. Adopt the policy statement, as amended;
2. Adopt the policy forum agenda, as amended;
3. Direct staff to look into inviting a guest speaker to present to the Committee on issue around inequality and socioeconomic drivers of well-being.

Emergency recommendations for referral to the Executive Committee:

4. Direct staff to research the impacts of the new Employment Insurance regulations on municipalities and develop and propose a position and advocacy strategy as appropriate, to be presented at a future meeting of the executive committee.

The Standing Committee recommends this report be received.

Councillor Ben Henderson
Chair, Standing Committee on
Social-Economic Development

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Present / Présences:

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS / MEMBRES DU COMITÉ PERMANENT

Chair / Président

Ben Henderson, Councillor, City of Edmonton, AB

Vice-Chair / Vice-Président et vice-présidente

Réjean Laforest, Conseiller, Ville de Saguenay, QC

Joanne Ross-Zuj, Mayor, Township of Centre Wellington, ON

Board Member / Membre du conseil d'administration

Marguerite Ceschi-Smith, Councillor, City of Brantford, ON

Maurice Cohen, Conseiller, Ville de Montréal, QC

Sav Dhaliwal, Councillor, City of Burnaby, BC

Shannie Duff, Deputy Mayor, City of St. John's, NL

Susan Fennell, Mayor, City of Brampton, ON

Moe Hamdon, Mayor, Town of Drayton Valley, AB

Allan Hawkins, Mayor, Town of Grand Falls-Windsor, NL

Erin Hogan, Deputy Mayor, City of Thompson, MB

Karen Leibovici, Councillor, City of Edmonton, AB

Bruce MacIntosh, President, Cities of New Brunswick Association, NB

Lorne Olsvik, Councillor, Lac Ste. Anne County, AB

Non-board member / Non membre du Conseil d'administration

Nancy Beppe, Councillor, City of Kamloops, BC

Marshall Chalmers, Mayor, City of Camrose, AB

Heather Deal, Councillor, City of Vancouver, BC

Scott Duvall, Councillor, City of Hamilton, ON

Chris Fonseca, Councillor, City of Mississauga, ON

Sylvie Goneau, Conseillère, Ville de Gatineau, QC

Paul Harris, Councillor, City of Red Deer, AB

Dave Hodgins, Councillor, Township of Esquimalt, BC

Rhona Martin, First Vice-President, Union of British Columbia Municipalities, BC

Terry Whitehead, Councillor, City of Hamilton, ON

OBSERVER / OBSERVATEUR

Julianna Charchun, Senior Policy Advisor, City of Edmonton, AB

Dominique Fortier, Chargée de mission, Ville de Montréal, QC

Sherri Hanley, Special Advisor External Relations, City of London, ON

Betty MacDonald, Executive Director, Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, NS

STAFF / PERSONNEL

Leanne Holt, Policy Advisor, Policy and Research

Eamonn Horan-Lunney, Manager, Government and Media Relations

Alex Long, Senior Manager, Program Development, National Programs

Alejandra Perdomo, Policy Projects Officer, Policy and Research

***Board Member / Membre du conseil**

August 2, 2013

Memorandum to the Standing Committee on Social-Economic Development

2013-14 POLICY AND ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Issue

This memorandum presents recommendations on the policy and advocacy priorities relevant to this committee's mandate that the committee should focus its resources for the coming year.

The priorities recommended below are set within the context of the advocacy strategy memo presented at Committee of the Whole on September 5 (see board agenda package), and were developed based on our progress towards the committee's priorities of the past year (to be reviewed in a presentation to the committee), feedback and input gathered from FCM members at the Policy Forum at the Annual Conference (see Annex 1 below), and an opportunity analysis of the political environment.

2013-14 Priority Setting

In the advocacy strategy presented at Committee of the Whole, it was proposed that the Board direct its focus on preparing for and positioning itself for the 2015 federal election. In response, the policy & advocacy priorities proposed here are presented within this strategic framework, while still advancing specific issues and files over the coming year.

It is proposed that this limited set of priorities be the focus of the majority of the standing committee's research, policy, advocacy, and political resources over the coming two years. Additional issues or priorities beyond election readiness may be proposed or may arise over the coming year in light of external deadlines, internal pressures and/or political opportunities. It will be up to the committee to evaluate the advantage of reallocating resources away from the agreed to priorities and to determine how this new work will impact election 2015 deliverables.

Proposed 2013-14 Priorities

The following issues have been identified as recommended key priorities for 2013-2014 in support of FCM's 2015 election readiness strategy:

1. 2013 Housing Campaign: A Fix for Canada's Housing System –The Future of Housing in Canada

Housing is a core driver of national economic growth. A healthy housing sector, able to meet a range of needs, across income levels, is a vital part of the economic and social wellbeing of any community. Today however, our housing market is failing us and putting our economy and the well-being of our communities at risk.

High home prices and record levels of household debt are pricing many Canadians out of the homeownership market while stagnant investment in rental housing and the expiry of a half a billion dollars in annual federal social housing subsidies is putting the squeeze on

the rental market and affordable housing system leaving fewer and fewer housing options for Canadians.

Whether it's the challenge of attracting and retaining new workers, housing students, meeting the housing needs of seniors or managing the increasing need for social housing; local governments are feeling the impact. Like Canada's infrastructure deficit, stagnant and ad-hoc investment in housing today will become a crisis that is increasingly more expensive to fix in the future.

With \$500 million in annual federal social housing agreements set to expire over the next five years and federal parties gearing up for election 2015, FCM and its members have the opportunity to set the stage for the future of housing in Canada. It is time to bring all orders of government together to fix the holes in our housing system and build the foundations for vibrant communities and future economic growth.

Strategies and activities

- Establish a national housing forum styled after the Municipal Infrastructure Forum to bring together a range of national, not-for-profit and industry stakeholders to identify and support shared goals for a healthy housing sector. The forum would provide an informal, multi-lateral consultation mechanism for federal, provincial/territorial governments to access.
- Launch a national campaign with web and social media presence, member engagement and political outreach to frame the issue and meet our objectives of a federal commitment in Budget 2104 to work with municipalities on a long-term solution to Canada's housing problems. The Campaign would also lay the ground-work for essential organization and policy work leading up to Election 2015.
- Research and develop a policy paper defining the problems in Canada's housing system and demonstrating the inextricable relationship between a healthy affordable and social housing system and a healthy homeowner and market housing system. The paper will also make the social and economic case for housing action among governments and stakeholders, including the private sector.
- Taking a page from the LTIP campaign, work with FCM's Board of Directors, members, stakeholders and the national housing forum to develop and agree to sound economic policy solutions to put Canada's housing system on solid ground.

2. Budget 2013 Implementation: Homelessness and the Housing First Model

The federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) provides \$119 million annually to 61 municipalities for their work to address homelessness in their communities. Budget 2013 announced a shift in the HPS to a Housing First approach for all HPS homelessness initiatives and committed to work with FCM to ensure better outcomes for the HPS.

Housing First has demonstrated long-term success in housing the chronically homeless and reducing dependency and use of costly emergency systems like shelters, ambulance, police, and hospital emergency rooms. Housing First calls for the provision of immediate, stable, permanent housing to individuals regardless of their state of addiction, compliance with medical treatment, ability to pay rent etc. Housing is accompanied by access to social and mental health supports often associated with chronic homelessness.

Along with the announcement of the change of focus for the HPS, the federal government reduced the HPS budget from \$134 million annually to \$119 million annually for five years.

FCM must hold the federal government to account for these changes, ensure that programs aren't impacted by the recent cuts and that municipal concerns regarding the Housing First approach are addressed.

Strategies and activities

- Work with senior Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) bureaucrats to hold the government to its commitment to consult widely and ensure a formal and open process to input on Homelessness Programs.
- Monitor the consultations and ensure that the shift to Housing First isn't at the expense of other existing successful community approaches to homelessness.

3. Canada's Aging Population

The biggest demographic wave since the post-war baby boom is about to break over Canada, and municipal governments are on the front line.

Adapting our housing, transit, recreation and even our buildings and public spaces will ensure a vibrant and engaged senior population that can safely age in place and continue to contribute to society. At the same time, cities and communities must provide the services and quality of life that will attract and retain new immigrants and a younger workforce that must replace our shrinking labour force and ensure economic growth and the future of Canada.

Strategies and activities:

- Research and publish the second in a two part QOLRS series on Canada's Aging Population.

This report will support our broader housing advocacy and will examine housing, transit and income data to understand where Canada's seniors fit into Canada's housing system, what are their changing needs and what, if any, barriers do seniors face with rising housing costs and shrinking rental markets. The report will also look at what role governments must play in meeting the growing demand to age in place and maintain access and proximity to health and community services.

Other issues

Other issues that are being managed through this committee have been listed in order to provide members with an understanding of the breadth of issues being addressed by this group. It also provides an overview of the ongoing activities that are being undertaken in support of these secondary issue areas.

Issue	Activities
Immigration	• Ensure that policy developed for the housing advocacy agenda incorporates and responds to the distinct needs and challenges facing new immigrants. • Continue to seek input from stakeholder groups including the Maytree foundation

Urban aboriginal issues	• Ensure that policy developed for the housing advocacy agenda incorporates and responds to the distinct needs and challenges facing urban aboriginals. • Expand relationships with urban aboriginal housing providers. • Provide a brief analysis of the recently released senate report on social inclusion on if and how it may feed into our housing advocacy.
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Next steps

With the committee's approval, staff will dedicate most of its time and resources to the priority issue areas identified in this memo. Other issues will continue to be supported through the ongoing activities listed in the table, but will be secondary to the actions undertaken in support of the priority issues.

Changes in priority areas, in response to a changing external environment, can be made at subsequent committee meetings or by the Executive Committee if time does not permit waiting for the next board meeting. However, note that due to limited resources and the need to focus, priorities cannot easily be added at any time without removing an existing priority from the list.

Detailed priority memos:

Please see detailed memo on priority issue: *A Fix for Canada's Housing System: The Future of Housing in Canada*

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Standing Committee on Social Economic Development:

1. Adopt the following as its 2013-14 policy and advocacy priorities:

Priority #1: 2013-13 Housing Campaign: A Fix for Canada's Housing System – The Future of Housing in Canada

Priority #2: Budget 2013 Implementation: Homelessness and the Housing First Model

Priority #3: Canada's Aging Population

2. Receive this report

Leanne Holt
Senior Policy Advisor

Michael Buda
Director, Policy & Research

ANNEX 1

Member Comments at the 2013 Policy Forum on Social-Economic Development

Background

A number of issues and concerns were brought forward at the Policy Forum, some of which are outside FCM's mandate. There was general acknowledgement at the Policy Forum that members agreed with the current focus of the committee.

The following is a grouping of all comments received:

Member Comments

Housing and Homelessness

- Seniors and aging in place strategies especially for remote and rural communities
- Address municipal and private sector barriers to developing new affordable housing
- Analyzing ties between mental health and homelessness
- Need for adaptive housing/ Universal housing
- Advocating for federal support for youth at risk, youth and housing

Aging population

- Changing housing needs
- Aging in place in rural and urban communities
- Isolated seniors
- Filling the labour gap with an aging population

Mental Health

- Identifying links between social issues, mental health and policing
- Call for a national suicide prevention strategy
- Homelessness and mental health

Employment Insurance

- Analyze the financial and social impacts of changes to E.I.

Aboriginal Canadians

- Advocating for aboriginals in large and small urban centres

Youth and Children

- Homelessness and meeting the needs of youth at risk
- Access to early childhood education and daycare
- Social drivers of crime among youth

Data and long-form census

- The end of the long-form census, federal government must ensure that municipalities have access to valuable, reliable national data.
- Develop a municipal data strategy with the Canada Index on Well-Being

July 31, 2013

Memorandum to the Standing Committee on Social-Economic Development

ACTION ITEMS STATUS REPORT

Committee recommendations	Status	Progress notes
<i>March 2013 Meeting</i>		
1. Direct staff to research the impacts of the new Employment Insurance regulations on municipalities and develop and propose a position and advocacy strategy as appropriate, to be presented at a future meeting of the executive committee.	Delayed	Staff will provide a briefing memo at the November board meeting.
2. Develop a position paper identifying impact of expiring federal funds and agreements on a set of representative municipalities (Urban, rural, northern, large and small).	In Progress	Pending board approval this report will be expanded and adapted to serve our budget 2014 strategy. Information on the proposed revised scope and timing of the release of the paper will be available on-site.
3. Convene a working group of national stakeholders to develop recommendations for the reinvestment of expiring funding and operating agreements.	In Progress	Staff has begun to identify and reach out to stakeholder organizations. The mandate of the group will be revised (pending board approval) to meet the needs of our updated housing advocacy strategy leading up to budget 2014 and election 2015.
4. Direct staff to look into inviting a guest speaker to present to the Committee on issue around inequality and socioeconomic drivers of well-being	In Progress	Staff is speaking with potential speakers and organizations and seeking and appropriate board meeting date for this presentation.
<i>September 2012 Meeting</i>		
5. Produce customized fact sheets for each MP for Advocacy Days that outline current federal housing investments by region/riding and the potential impact of expiring investments/funding.	In Progress	FCM continues to work with CHRA on their EOA calculator to provide fact sheets for the Board for upcoming advocacy days and other advocacy opportunities.
<i>March 2012 Meeting</i>		
6. Working with the SED Chair, staff is directed to invite the Canadian Reference Group on Social Determinants of Health to present	In Progress	Invitations were made to the Group for the 2012 AGM however they were not able to accept. The Group is currently undergoing some organizational

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Committee recommendations	Status	Progress notes
at the 2012 AGM.		changes and is unable to commit to a future date: however, staff will continue to pursue this opportunity.

Leanne Holt
Senior Policy Advisor

August 2, 2013

Memorandum to the Standing Committee on Social-Economic Development

2013-14 HOUSING CAMPAIGN:
FIXING CANADA'S HOUSING SYSTEM – THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN CANADA

Issue

The purpose of this memo is to provide the rationale and context for the proposed advocacy priority and campaign focus of *Fixing Canada's Housing System: the Future of Housing in Canada*.

Background

Canadians are carrying record levels of household debt while a growing number are being priced out of the housing market, including the workers urgently needed to drive industry in fast growing regions.

Affordable housing waitlists continue to grow along with the increasing need for subsidized housing and, in the most desperate cases, emergency shelters. At the same time, \$500 million out of \$1.7 billion in annual federal housing subsidy agreements are set to expire by 2019 putting one-third of Canada's social housing stock at risk.

Local governments are ready and willing to tackle our housing affordability crisis and continue to invest significantly in housing but the needs and challenges facing Canada's housing sector extend far beyond the funding capacity of any single order of government.

Current Status

Whether it's the challenge of attracting and retaining new workers, housing students, meeting the housing needs of seniors or managing the increasing need for social housing; local governments are feeling the impact.

Canada's Housing Challenges:

- Changing mortgage rules may help curb crushing levels of household debt but the counter effect is a loss of badly-needed jobs as the new home construction industry slows further, in response to reduced demand.
- Tight rental markets mean higher rents and threaten to push lower income Canadians out of the private housing market entirely.
- Demand continues to outstrip supply in our slow growing and underdeveloped rental market as more Canadians look for new housing options they can afford.
- Local governments with growing economies struggle to attract new workers with few to no affordable housing options to offer at the same time that Canada's aging population will require a range of new housing needs.
- Social housing wait lists will continue to grow with 1/3 of Canada's social housing stock at risk when \$500 million in annual federal operating agreements expire by 2019 with another \$500 million in matching provincial funds likely to dry as the federal agreements start to wrap up.
- The most vulnerable populations are turning to emergency shelters in greater numbers and Canada's homelessness rates continue to rise.

Analysis

More effective housing and homelessness solutions exist but require leadership, planning, strong communication and a long-term commitment from all orders of government.

Like Canada's infrastructure deficit, stagnant and ad-hoc investment in affordable housing today will become a crisis that is increasingly more expensive to fix in the future.

With \$500 million in annual federal social housing agreements set to expire over the next five years and federal parties gearing up for election 2015, FCM and its members have an opportunity to set the stage for the future of housing in Canada, and not just for those disadvantaged by its shortage.

Next Steps

FCM will seek a federal government commitment in Budget 2014 to work with municipalities on a long-term solution to Canada's housing problems so that we can begin to put our housing system back on solid ground.

Broadly, FCM will call on the federal government to:

1. Work with its municipal/provincial/territorial counterparts to develop innovative policies and initiatives addressing the range of issues facing the housing sector and threatening the economic growth of our communities including: rental housing, housing affordability and homelessness.
2. Commit to developing a long-term housing plan with FCM to address the \$1.7 billion in operating agreements set to expire over the next five years.
3. Follow-up with its 2013 Federal budget commitment to work with FCM to implement a Housing First approach to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy programs.

To frame these issues and support our objectives leading up to Budget 2014, FCM will develop and launch a national campaign with media, web and social media presence, member engagement and political outreach strategies. The Campaign will also lay the ground-work for essential organization and policy work on housing leading up to Election 2015.

Key tools and activities to contribute to the campaign and our overall policy and advocacy work will include:

- Establishing a national housing forum styled after the Municipal Infrastructure Forum to bring together a range of national, not-for-profit and industry stakeholders to identify and support shared goals for a healthy housing sector. The forum would provide an informal, multi-lateral consultation mechanism for federal, provincial/territorial governments to access.
- Researching and developing a policy paper defining the problems in Canada's housing system and demonstrating the inextricable relationship between a healthy affordable and social housing system and a healthy homeowner and market housing system. The paper will also make the social and economic case for housing action among governments and stakeholders, including the private sector.

- Taking a page from the LTIP campaign, work with FCM's Board of Directors, members, stakeholders and the national housing forum to develop and agree to sound economic policy solutions to put Canada's housing system on solid ground.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Standing Committee on Social-Economic Development:

1. Develop and deliver a national campaign on the future of housing in Canada.
2. Support the establishment of a national housing forum comprised of a limited but representative number of municipal, not-for-profit and industry representatives with the objective of identifying and supporting shared goals for a healthy housing sector.
3. Ask Board members to provide input, feedback and response as required to ensure the successful development and roll out of a national campaign and its policy and advocacy components.
4. Receive this report

Leanne Holt
Senior Policy Advisor

Michael Buda
Director, Policy & Research