



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

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TO: Finance and Corporate Services Committee

DESTINATAIRE : Comité des finances et des services organisationnels

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**SUBJECT: FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show 2023 Delegate Report
(Councillor Bradley)**

**OBJET : Le rapport du délégué du congrès annuel et salon professionnel de FCM
2023 (Conseillère Bradley)**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to report to Committee following attendance at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Trade Show.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Council Expense Policy, Members of Council who undertake City-funded travel must submit a written report to the appropriate Standing Committee detailing their experiences, what they learned at the conference and how the City's position or interests were advanced.

BACKGROUND

The City of Ottawa is the fourth largest city in Canada and the second largest city in Ontario. As a leading municipality, Ottawa is a member of several municipal organizations responsible for advancing important priorities and engaging with upper levels of government. Our participation allows the City to influence policy development at the provincial and national level, while networking and learning from our peers. To this end, Members of Council are invited to attend various conferences, conventions, and meetings both within and outside the municipality.

The City of Ottawa is a Member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), an organization representing more than 2,000 municipalities across Canada. FCM's Annual Conference and Trade Show gathers municipal leaders from across Canada each year to set common policy goals on key issues.

FCM hosted its Annual Conference and Trade Show from May 25 to May 28, 2023, in Toronto, Ontario. In addition to Councillor Tim Tierney, the City's representative to FCM, the following Members of Council attended this event:

- Councillor Jessica Bradley
- Councillor Sean Devine
- Councillor Theresa Kavanagh
- Councillor Wilson Lo
- Councillor Shawn Menard
- Councillor Ariel Troster

DISCUSSION

It was an honour to attend FCM's Annual Conference as a delegate on behalf of Ottawa City Council. The conference was a great opportunity to meet elected officials and partner agencies from across the country – to share experiences, challenges, and ideas to help shape our respective municipalities.

At the conference I was fortunate to participate in numerous workshops and study tours that highlighted some of the major issues that cities across the country are facing.

Workshops of particular interest included a presentation on local climate resilience and how our federal counterparts can be strategic partners in helping cities adapt. The workshop highlighted opportunities for federal funding, the federal government's National Adaptation Strategy, and their Action Plan with a particular focus on cities. The workshop also focused on how municipal leaders can leverage these funding sources and supports to help tackle climate change locally. This was a key takeaway for me as our city is in desperate need of greater action and investments to combat the impacts of climate change. I look forward to exploring these funding sources with our city staff this coming term.

Another interesting workshop explored the benefits and drawbacks of P3 project models in the context of the public interest. I found this session insightful given the challenges that we have had as a city with P3 models with LRT Phase 1 and Phase 2, as well as with the Lansdowne Partnership Agreement. The session's primary focus was to determine if private sector-public sector collaborations serve the public well, both from a labour perspective, but primarily from a community/service delivery perspective. These insights will be helpful as we embark upon future projects, including Lansdowne 2.0.

In addition to the workshops and study tours, I was also fortunate to participate in the Ontario Regional Caucus meeting, where Ottawa City Councillor Tim Tierney was elected as 3rd VP. Having local representation on the Caucus will certainly help to advance the city's priorities.

Other highlights of the conference included keynote speeches from both Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as well as Green Party Leader Elizabeth May. Both speakers spoke of the importance of Federal-Municipal relationships and the need to modernize those relationships to advance shared priorities.

The conference also had a robust trade show which showcased numerous new technologies and tools as well as innovative solutions to key municipal issues including, climate change, road maintenance, traffic monitoring, and air quality testing.

Overall, the conference was a great opportunity to connect with municipal leaders and federal partners across the country. The knowledge gained and connections made will help me continue to advance the interests of our city both at the ward level, but also city-wide. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend and look forward to future learning opportunities.

CONCLUSION

It is through the commitment of Members of Council, to attend conferences like the 2023 FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show, that the City of Ottawa's interests are advanced.

Jessica Bradley
Councillor, Ward 10 Gloucester-Southgate