Flower City

brampton.ca

# Brampton

MA-DS-1

## Corporate Services Department

October 9, 2009

| LEGISLATIVE SERVICES | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| COPY TO: | | FOR: | |
| Chair | ✓ | Committee | |
| CAO | ✓ | | |
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| Peel Living | | | |

The Regional Municipality of Peel
Attn: J. Payne, Acting Clerk
10 Peel Centre Drive, 5th Floor, Suite "A"
Brampton, ON L6Y 2N9

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The Council of the Corporation of the City of Brampton passed the following resolution at its meeting of September 23, 2009:

C227-2009 That the report from Mayor Fennell, dated September 17, 2009, to the Council Meeting of September 23, 2009, re: **Proceedings of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Board of Directors – September 9-12, 2009, Collingwood Ontario** (File A10FC), be received; and

That the subject report be forwarded to the Regional Municipality of Peel for information.

The above resolution and enclosed report are provided for your information.

Yours truly,

A. Rawecki

Amanda Rawecki
Legislative Coordinator
City Clerk's Office
Tel: 905-874-3829 / Fax: 905-874-2119
amanda.rawecki@brampton.ca
(CL-H 1)

cc: Mayor S. Fennell
D. Dubenofsky, City Manager

Encl.

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ✓

MA-DS-2

# The Corporation of the City of Brampton

Office of the Mayor

Susan Fennell
Mayor

BRAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
DATE: September 23, 2009

**Date:** Thursday September 17, 2009

**Subject:** Report on Proceedings of the 2009 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Board of Directors – September 9-12, 2009

**OVERVIEW:**

- **As the Region of Peel representative to the FCM National Board of Directors, Mayor Susan Fennell participates in the Board and Committee meetings as well as presides as Chair of the Ontario Regional Caucus.**
- **This report provides the highlights of the meetings of the FCM National Board of Directors held in Collingwood, Ontario on September 9-12, 2009.**

**Recommendation:**

1. That the report from Mayor Susan Fennell, dated September 17, 2009, re: **Report on Proceedings of the 2009 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Board of Directors – September 9-12, 2009**, be received, and;

1. That the report from Mayor Susan Fennell, dated September 17, 2009, re:, **Report on Proceedings of the 2009 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Board of Directors – September 9-12, 2009,** be forwarded to the Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel for information.

**Introduction:**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) held its National Board of Directors meetings in Collingwood, Ontario from September 9-12, 2009. Mayor Fennell attended the Board Meetings in her capacity as Peel's representative to the National Board of Directors and presides as Chair of the Ontario Regional Caucus. This report will provide the highlights of the various committees that make up the National Board meetings.

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**Highlights of the National Board Meetings:**

**Standing Committee on Conference Planning**
Mayor Fennell is a member of this Standing Committee. The proposed public advocacy strategy for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held in Toronto in 2010 was presented. The committee discussed the challenges in preparing for the National Board meeting that is to be held in Iqaluit, Nunavut, in September 2010. FCM staff was directed to confirm the arrangements and report back on their status to the Standing Committee for the November meetings. The host city proposals for the 2015 AGM were reviewed and Edmonton, Alberta was recommended for consideration by the National Board.

**Committee of the Whole**
The FCM President, Mayor Basil Stewart, welcomed the delegates to the Board of Directors meetings and introduced the newly elected members from the 2009 AGM in June. All Board Members were provided with the new Orientation package that contained federal-municipal priorities and FCM's advocacy efforts. Brock Carlton, CEO presented the draft FCM advocacy principles that will form the basis of their election platform and/or pre-budget consultations.

**Ontario Regional Caucus meeting**
Mayor Susan Fennell chairs the Ontario Region Caucus. The Chair provided an update on the "Buy American" resolution that was endorsed by FCM at the AGM in June 2009. The Caucus discussed issues pertinent in Ontario to be forwarded to respective committees for resolution, such Childcare and the Best-Start program, the discontinuance of the Greyhound Bus service and rural broadband access. At the request, of the Chair, Caucus members provided feedback for information needed from FCM for local municipalities to host "National Town Hall" meetings on municipal priorities of national importance should a Federal Election be called.

**Standing Committee on Municipal Finance & Intergovernmental Arrangements**
The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade addressed the membership through a conference call. He provided an update on the discussions with the U.S regarding the fair trade issues with the American Recovery ad Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Minister and the Committee members discussed FCM's "Buy American" resolution and its potential impact on talks between the U.S. President and Canada's Prime Minister on this topic, among others, scheduled for next week. It was resolved that the resolution be referred to the National Board of Directors to revisit the 120 day (October 4) deadline in the resolution subject to the progress of the two national governments.

**Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government**
Mayor Susan Fennell is a member of this Standing Committee. Federal Minister Helena Guergis, Minister of State (Status of Women) attended the meeting providing insight into the on-going consultation for the ministry's priorities and programs. The Minister and the Committee members discussed topics on Equal Voice, childcare and champion programs for women in politics.

**Standing Committee on Municipal Infrastructure and Transportation Policy**
Mayor Susan Fennell is a member of this Standing Committee. FCM staff informed the committee members that Infrastructure Canada has an agreement with Stats Canada to prepare a survey on the Infrastructure deficit. This will be a first step to collect data and analysis for their funding programs. FCM in partnership with Infrastructure Canada, will use this information to define the $123 Billion Infrastructure deficit and to begin to develop a long term strategy to eliminate the national infrastructure deficit.

John Forrester, Associate Deputy Minister from Infrastructure provided an update on the Stimulus funds through a conference call. He indicated that since the Budget announcement in January 2009, over 4,000 projects worth approximately $7 Billion had been awarded through the Build Canada Fund, the Community Fund and the Economic Stimulus Fund. Committee members posed questions to the Associate Deputy Minister regarding the status of contribution agreements and the possibility of extending the project deadline from March 2011. He clarified that the contribution agreements were between the Province and municipalities and he reminded committee members that Minister Baird made it clear that all costs on approved projects would be honoured regardless of the date of agreement and that the March 2011 deadline was firm.

**Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Community Safety**
Mr. Paul Smetanin, President and CEO of RiskAnalytica presented research on the benefits of purchasing an additional antiviral stockpile specifically for health care workers and emergency service providers. Dr. John Spika, Director General for the Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases at the Public Health Agency of Canada provided an update on the government's pandemic planning activities. Brampton's Manager of Emergency Measures, Alain Normand, participated on a panel of experts to discuss the importance of engaging municipal governments in developing a comprehensive national plan to protect Canadians from an outbreak of the H1N1 virus, including a strategy to keep critical infrastructure workers safe and on the job.

**Executive Committee**
As Chair of the Ontario Caucus, Mayor Susan Fennell is a member of the Executive Committee. The executive committee previews the reports of the table officers and emerging items prior to the National Board of Directors meeting. Resolutions and reports of the Executive Committee members were reviewed and endorsed including the FCM Spokesman Policy.

**National Board of Directors**
Mayor Fennell represents the Region of Peel as a Director for FCM's National Board. The National Board of Directors discusses and approves the reports and related recommendations from the table officers, standing committees and provincial/territorial causes at this meeting. The meeting highlights included discussion on the "Buy American" resolution with consideration to the dialogue between Minister Day and the committee members on the status of the Canada U.S. discussions. It was agreed that the deadline suspension be revisited at the discretion of the Executive Committee subject to the upcoming Canada US discussions. The "Next Steps on Buy American" resolution approved by the National Board of Directors is attached as Appendix 'A'.

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The Directors discussed the concerns with the March 2011 deadline for the Economic Stimulus Funds, further to the report of the Standing Committee on Municipal Infrastructure and Transportation Policy. The Board members were assured that FCM staff will be advocating for an extension to the deadline, but will focus on the adopted pre-election/pre-budget platform strategy to promote the economic benefits that municipalities, in partnership with the federal government are generating with the stimulus funds.

The First Vice-President, Berry Vrbanovic presented the report of the Executive Committee recommending the City of Edmonton for the location of the 2015 AGM. The Directors expressed concern with the site selection criteria. It was agreed that the 2015 AGM would be in Edmonton and FCM staff were directed to review the criteria to capture the concerns raised by the Directors for consideration by the Standing Committee on Conference Planning at the next meeting of the National Board.

**Next Steps**
The next meeting of the FCM National Board of Directors is scheduled for November 18-21, 2009 in Ottawa, Ontario.

Susan D Fennell

**Susan Fennell**
**Mayor**

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Appendix 'A'

*2009 SEPTEMBER BOARD DECISION:*

**FIG09.3.09**
**NEXT STEPS ON BUY AMERICAN**

**WHEREAS** the "Fair Trade" resolution was adopted at FCM's Annual Conference in Whistler in June 2009;

**WHEREAS** this resolution supported municipalities who chose to adopt procurement policies which favour free and fair trade by ensuring that local infrastructure projects procure goods and materials required for the projects only from companies whose countries of origin do not impose trade restrictions against goods and materials manufactured in Canada;

**WHEREAS** this resolution also proposed municipalities suspend the adoption of Fair Trade procurement policies until October 4 to allow for a negotiated resolution of this matter;

**WHEREAS** the Fair Trade resolution was designed to raise awareness, on both sides of the border, of the threat posed by Buy America, and to force the Government of Canada to take leadership in pursuing a solution with the U.S. Administration;

**WHEREAS** the Fair Trade resolution has ignited public debate and a vigorous response by federal, provincial and territorial governments;

**WHEREAS** the Prime Minister and Premiers have joined together to make a proposal to the U.S. Administration to seek an exemption for Canadian based companies from Buy American provisions, and are awaiting a response;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the October 4 deadline contained in the Fair Trade resolution be suspended, in recognition of the sustained and significant efforts made by the Government of Canada to pursue a solution with the U.S. government;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that FCM's International Trade Working Group be tasked with liaising with the Government of Canada, monitoring continued progress towards solution and reporting back to the FCM Board on a quarterly basis.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that FCM revisit this issue should the International Trade Working Group report that progress towards a solution has stalled;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Government of Canada adhere to the following principles when negotiating international trade agreements:

1. **Procurement thresholds:** Inappropriate procurement thresholds may force municipalities to tender projects when tendering is neither practical nor financially justified. Trade agreements must not impose unnecessarily expensive and time-consuming procurement practices.

2. **Administration:** Ensuring that municipal procurement policies are free-trade compliant will likely create new costs. Many municipalities may not have the administrative capacity to learn about required changes or to adapt their policies and

procedures. Canadian trade strategies should include capacity-building support for municipalities, particularly for smaller urban, rural, and remote communities.

3. **Financial Penalties and Dispute Resolution:** Municipalities may be subject to direct financial penalties if found to be non-compliant with international trade agreements, and questions remain about these penalties and how non-compliance will be established. There are also outstanding questions about how municipalities can defend their policies and bylaws within dispute-resolution processes. Municipalities must be consulted to ensure penalties and dispute-resolution processes are fair and transparent.

4. **Consultation and communication:** Meaningful consultation and regular communication during negotiations is required to ensure any resulting agreement responds to municipal concerns.

5. **Strategic considerations:** It is important to preserve the right of governments to implement policies that protect quality, public benefit, environmental protection, and strategic significance to a particular region when selecting a supplier.

*International Trade Working Group*

The Standing Committee on Municipal Finance and Intergovernmental Arrangements recommends:
**Referred back to the Executive Committee for further consideration.**

***2009 SEPTEMBER BOARD DECISION:***