



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

From: Andrew Nazareth
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services

Re: FCM Special Advocacy Fund

Date: May 24, 2018

File: 03-0900-01/2018-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

That the City of Richmond participate in FCM's Special Advocacy Fund for the 2019 Federal Election at \$10,400 per year for the next two years.

Andrew Nazareth
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REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

As a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) member, the City has received a request to contribute to a two-year Special Advocacy Fund to ensure that every federal party is kept keenly aware of municipal priorities heading into Election 2019, as well as in the crucial first months of a new government.

Analysis

According to FCM, they have delivered unprecedented gains for municipalities, especially following the last Federal Election. The Election 2015 breakthrough has created new opportunities and new expectations. Some of the significant gains include:

- The **Investing in Canada infrastructure plan** - a 12-year, \$180 billion federal investment in local infrastructure, from public transit to wastewater system upgrades.
- Canada's first-ever **national housing strategy**, including key commitments to repair and build affordable housing across the country.
- A strengthened **seat at the table**, including through unprecedented engagement with federal, provincial and territorial ministers, as well as with opposition leaders and the Prime Minister.
- A **predictable federal allocation model** for transit expansions that put municipalities in the driver's seat.
- A \$2 billion **rural and northern infrastructure fund** - the biggest investment of its kind in a generation.
- Better access to **high-speed broadband** through the federal Connect to Innovate program and the CRTC decision to mandate universal broadband access.
- New **capacity-building programs** on asset management and climate change - led by FCM - as well as a new \$125 million capital investment in FCM's Green Municipal Fund.

FCM sees the 2019 Election as a vital opportunity to build on these gains and to consolidate the municipal sector's position as an essential national partner to any federal government, no matter which party wins the next Federal Election.

Almost 60% of Canada's core public infrastructure is owned and maintained by municipal governments with significant costs to replace. FCM has worked to have federal infrastructure funding distributed through their programs in order to meet the unique needs of municipal governments. By contributing flow through funding to FCM, the Government of Canada supports local leaders in determining what communities need. Municipalities are implementing some of Canada's most advanced green solutions, reducing Canada's greenhouse gas emissions and supporting local priorities such as improving public transit, saving energy, disaster mitigation and improving waste management.

Richmond has directly benefited from the new FCM programs and received the following funding since 2015:

Fund	Project	Date	Amount Received
FCM Green Municipal Fund	River Parkway and Middle Arm Park Brownfield Remediation Plan	May 2016	\$175,000
FCM Green Municipal Fund	Solar Energy Minoru Complex Feasibility Study	April 2016	\$69,000
Green Municipal Fund	Micro Sewer Heat Recovery Feasibility Study	April 2016	\$83,000
Municipal Community Infrastructure Program	Deep Retrofit Library Cultural Centre	May 2018	\$750,000
Total Funding Received			\$1,077,000

In addition, City staff have sought out grants and since 2015, the City has received an additional \$8.4 million from federal infrastructure funding. It is vital to have the Federal Government understand the ageing infrastructure challenges that the municipalities are facing.

According to FCM, the Special Advocacy Fund will drive their largest and most ambitious campaign ever, reaching out to every federal party. It means an intensive, multi-faceted strategy that integrates polling, detailed platform development, sustained outreach and an innovative communications and media plan that will keep municipal priorities front and center heading into Election 2019.

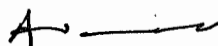
The Special Advocacy Fund is voluntary and the fee is calculated on a per capita basis, similar to how FCM membership fees are structured.

Financial Impact

The fee is \$10,400 per year for the next two years to be funded from Council Contingency.

Conclusion

That the City of Richmond contribute towards the FCM Special Advocacy Fund in order to reach out to federal parties heading into Election 2019 with municipal priorities.



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