
Subject: Regional Nomination to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Report to: Members of Regional Council

Report date: Thursday, April 22, 2021

Recommendations

1. That Council **ENDORSE** Councillor Diana Huson as Niagara Region's representative to stand for election on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Board of Directors (Ontario) for the period starting June 2021 and ending June 2022.
2. That Council **CONFIRM** it will assume all costs associated with the representative's attendance at FCM's Board of Directors meetings and Annual Conference.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of a Regional Councillor's nomination to the Board of Directors for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
- FCM is seeking nominations for Directors representing Ontario.
- The Board of Directors sets policy priorities that reflect the concerns of municipal governments and affiliate members.
- The FCM Board consists of elected municipal officials committed to championing local priorities at the national level on behalf of the FCM membership.
- A key benefit to Regional participation is increased advocacy opportunities to influence public policy and strengthen its relationship with the provincial and federal levels of government.
- The estimated cost for participation on the FCM Board for 2021-2022 is between \$678 - \$5,000.
- Nominations close on May 21, 2021.
- Notification was sent to Regional Council on April 1, 2021, CWCD 2021-81, and Councillor Huson was the only Councillor expressing interest in pursuing this opportunity.

Financial Considerations

With many of the quarterly board meetings and the annual conference occurring virtually due to ongoing travel restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, travel and accommodations will be significantly reduced. The costs to represent the Region on FCM's Board of Directors for 2021-2022, including the registration fee at the virtual Annual Conference from May 31-June 4, 2021, is expected to be between \$678 - \$5,000. Generally costs to participate are between \$9,000- \$11,000. At this time quarterly meetings are scheduled in September 14-17, 2021, Brandon, MB (subject to change), November 2021 – location to be determined, March 2022 – location to be determined.

Analysis

About the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors is comprised of 74 elected municipal officials and affiliate members representing each province and territory in Canada. Ontario is allotted sixteen members with one selected among the six regional governments.

The Board of Directors sets policy priorities that reflect the concerns of municipal governments and affiliate members. It meets three to five days, three times per year to develop policy positions on key national municipal issues.

During meetings, the various standing committees meet to discuss and develop policy positions on these key issues. These recommendations are then forwarded to the Board of Directors who discuss and adopt the recommendations.

Election Process

The election of FCM Board Members will occur during the FCM virtual conference on June 2, 2021. Members of FCM are eligible to vote online on June 2, after which the results will be announced live during the FCM Annual General Meeting on June 4.

To qualify for this position, Regional Council must endorse the candidate's nomination by resolution (See Appendix 1). Additionally, the prospective nominee is required to complete the [on-line Consent Form](https://fcm.ca/en/about-fcm/board-directors/fcm-) (<https://fcm.ca/en/about-fcm/board-directors/fcm->

elections/board-directors-election-consent-form). FCM deadlines for nominations are on May 21, 2021. All candidates registered will have the opportunity to post an election campaign ad on FCM's website.

Benefits of Board Representation

The presence of a Niagara Region representative as an FCM Board of Director for Ontario offers the Region increased advocacy opportunities to influence public policy and strengthen its relationship with the provincial and federal levels of government. In addition, as a Board member, the Region can increase its visibility and enhance our image as a leader in municipal government among its local government counterparts. Participation at Board meetings will give Regional priorities a voice at the national level, enable networking opportunities with other municipalities, and share innovations in municipal governance.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This recommendation aligns with the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan under 4.2 Enhanced Communication. In addition, this role advances the principles of Good Governance by demonstrating municipal leadership and increasing awareness of Regional priorities as a means of generating support and partnerships to address these priorities. Ultimately, this will build Niagara's reputation as an innovative, collaborative, and forward-looking municipal partner.

Submitted by:

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This report was prepared by Gina Van den Burg, Government & Stakeholder Relations Specialist and reviewed by Natalie Early, Director, Corporate Strategy & Innovation.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Resolution to endorse Nomination for standing on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors