

Value of FCM Membership: Fraser Valley Regional District, BC

Overview:

- FCM represents the voice of 2,000 municipal members in Ottawa. That unity has made it possible to secure unprecedented tools and influence for members, including **the \$180-billion federal infrastructure plan**, Canada's first-ever **national housing strategy**, the 2019 one-time doubling of the Gas Tax Fund, and a **permanent transit fund**.
- FCM's advocacy delivered an **additional \$805,000 to Fraser Valley Regional District** through the one-time doubling of the Gas Tax Fund program to put towards its local infrastructure priorities.
- To build on these historic wins and advance the priorities of municipalities, FCM needs a strong and sustainable foundation. That's why last year, FCM's Board of Directors unanimously adopted a revised dues structure for members – **our first in 10 years** – in order to enable us to take more frequent and sustained action on a growing range of issues through government relations, expert policy analysis, media and member engagement and more. To keep FCM moving forward, the board called for a new, sustainable fee structure.
- The revised fee includes a roll-up of the Legal Defense Fund and Special Advocacy that our members have called for rather than the annual voluntary campaigns for those funds. The Legal Defense Fund has allowed intervention in precedent-setting federal appellate cases with the potential to impact municipalities across Canada, such as the *Ledcor* case that established the principle that municipalities have the right to recover incremental costs related to telecommunications activity on their land – a win for all local governments.
- Over the last 10 years, FCM's annual membership fee increases were tied to the Consumer Price Index at an average of 2.3 per cent. That restricted our members' ambitions for the municipal sector and put future opportunities for transformative success at risk.
- To realign our resources and incorporate the special funds into the membership fee – FCM's Board approved a **one-time 25% per capita fee increase** from 0.1524 to 0.1905 and a **new \$1,500 base fee**, up from the current \$370 base fee, starting in 2020. FCM's Board also recognized that doing more with less year after year is not sustainable and approved a **3.5% annual fee increase** that better reflects annual cost increases and aligns resources with member priorities.

What has changed?

- FCM has evolved to become a leading national organization that extensively engages our membership to develop fully costed, evidence-based solutions that have successfully shaped the federal agenda. We have built strong relationships with a broad range of Ottawa policy-makers and we are recognized as the convenor for the municipal sector, with record-breaking municipal attendance and participation by all party leaders at our annual conference.
- FCM is now a recognized partner at the national level. Government, media and national stakeholders expect FCM to be at the table to bring the municipal voice forward on an increasing range of issues, including pressing national issues like **homelessness, climate change, and the opioid crisis**. Our scope and reach have grown significantly over the last 10 years without a revenue adjustment to match.

- For example, FCM recently launched the **Western Economic Solutions Task Force (WEST)** to bring together municipal leaders affected by the economic downturn in Western Canada to convene conversations, generate solutions in partnership with the federal government, and ensure the perspectives of communities from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are well represented at the national level. The Task Force is mobilizing FCM resources to engage our members across Western Canada in this important work and ensure your voice is heard in federal policymaking.
- Now is the time to give FCM a sustainable foundation and the tools it needs to empower municipalities for years to come.

FCM Achievements

- The doubling of this year's **federal Gas Tax Fund transfer** saw an additional \$2.2 billion for municipalities, including **an additional \$805,000 transfer to Fraser Valley Regional District**, to get local projects off the ground faster.
- The **\$180-billion federal infrastructure plan** to support critical upgrades to roads, bridges, recreation centres, wastewater systems—and more.
- 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** through unprecedented engagement with federal, provincial and territorial ministers, as well as opposition leaders and the Prime Minister.
- The **\$2-billion rural and northern infrastructure fund**, with higher federal contributions and commitments to streamline project administration.
- A **10-year federal transit plan**, with direct allocations that put municipalities in the driver's seat—from project selection to delivery.
- Better access to **high-speed broadband Internet** through significant investments in bringing connectivity to every community.
- Nearly \$1-billion for **Green Municipal Fund** leadership on energy efficiency, as well as new capacity-building programs on asset management and climate innovation.
- **Key Election 2019 commitments**—including commitments to establish a **permanent federal funding mechanism for public transit**. FCM is now actively advocating to ensure this new mechanism delivers predictable, allocation-based investments as well as making funding available for merit-based projects to support needs that can't be met by ridership-based allocations alone.