



E-NEWS BULLETIN

December 2009

Vol 3 # 8



President's Message

Councillor Clarence Prince

I want to update the membership on various activities occurring over the past month.

From November 18-21 I attended FCM Board meetings in Ottawa. These were productive meetings. FCM is the national voice of municipal government. Municipal representatives from regions across Canada meet annually to discuss issues, establish policy and set the direction of FCM's continuing advocacy on behalf of municipal government. Some key discussions at the November FCM Board meeting focused on: environmental issues and sustainable government; municipal infrastructure and transportation policy; community safety and crime prevention; socio-economic development; municipal role in fighting climate change and many others. We will keep you posted on these and other items of mutual interest.

I have arranged an informal meeting with SNSMR Minister Ramona Jennex to discuss various municipal issues. This meeting is scheduled to take place on January 6. This discussion will be an excellent precursor to the Municipal-Provincial Roundtable scheduled to take place early in the new year.

Speaking of the Roundtable, the Board will present the following items to the Province during this important meeting:

- Revising NSPI taxation formula to ensure that host units receive full taxation (estimated at \$17 million) based on rate times assessment
- Assessment Cap Program Review

- RRFB Board – Discussion of adding more municipal representation to the RRFB Board based on resolution passed at 2009 Fall Conference
- Municipal Finance Corporation Restructuring – Investigating the option of housing the MFC within the UNSM structure
- Forming a Municipal-Provincial Taskforce to address the plight of Towns.

In response to Bell Aliant's centralization of several call centres throughout the province, the UNSM will conduct a survey of all 55 municipal units to determine their telephone/internet service provider and the cost to each municipality for the service. Once this information is compiled, the Board will determine the level of municipal interest to issue a bulk tender for these services.

Warden Lloyd Hines was appointed to serve as the UNSM representative on the AMA Board of Directors. On a go-forward basis, the UNSM Immediate Past President, by virtue of office, will automatically be appointed to the AMANS Board of Directors without formal approval of the UNSM Board.

Councillor Keith Irving from the Town of Wolfville is the new appointment on the Sustainable Practices Committee.

The Board will be conducting a strategic planning session to determine key priorities over the next three years. This session will take place sometime in February 2010.

A number of municipal units have written the UNSM in support of the resolution to add more municipal representatives to the RRFB Board. In addition to bringing this forward at the next Roundtable, we are inviting the RRFB Chair and CEO to discuss this matter at our January Board meeting.

The UNSM Board approved a proposal by the PVSC to establish a Business Strategy and Innovation Council to deal with property related issues and opportunities.

The 2010 UNSM Spring Workshop will be held at the Old Orchard Inn in on April 29 and 30. The Old O is located in Greenwich in the Municipality of Kings. Please mark your calendars for this event; a formal notice will be going out in the new year.

UNSM Executive Director Ken Simpson attended the MFC Board meeting on December 14 to reiterate the UNSM position to consider locating the MFC within the UNSM structure. UNSM members on the MFC Board include Warden Keith Hunter from the Municipality of Cumberland and Deputy Mayor Don Zwicker from the Municipality of Lunenburg. The MFC Board has not yet reached a decision as to whether they will consider this proposed option.

In conclusion I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Until next month!

AMA APPOINTMENTS TO PVSC BOARD

The UNSM Board approved the following AMA Appointments to the PVSC Board of Directors:

- Cathie O'Toole, Director of Finance, HRM
- Roy Brideau, CAO, Town of Wolfville
- Sandy Hudson, CAO, County of Victoria

UNSM BOARD IMPLEMENTS CARBON OFFSET POLICY

The UNSM Board will implement a Carbon Offset Policy effective January 1, 2010, based on the following:

- UNSM members and staff will be issued a \$5.00 offset fee on expense claims that involve travel by car to compensate for greenhouse gas emissions created from the trip. This fee will be placed in a carbon offsetting account to be set up by UNSM's financial officer, and will be used towards sustainability projects as determined by the Board that displace the use of fossil fuels.
- The UNSM Board of Directors and staff will offset air travel.
- The UNSM's Municipal Sustainability Coordinator will work with the Event Planner to ensure all major UNSM events carbon neutral, including the spring and fall conference.

SILVER ECONOMY SUMMIT

The 2010 Silver Economy Summit will challenge conventional attitudes toward aging. Our aging population has far-reaching implications for our economy and society... matched by positive opportunities. The status quo is changing... are you ready?

Join us May 13-14, 2010, in Halifax to meet people who are adapting and thriving within the Silver Economy. Learn about tools and contacts that can help you plan your organization's successful future.

The 2010 Silver Economy Summit will be the first event of its kind in North America, and you won't want to miss it.

Want to know more? Register today to receive updates about the Silver Economy Summit.

Online: www.SilverEconomySummit.ca
Email: SilverEconomySummit@gov.ns.ca
Phone: 1.800.670.0065 (toll free within Nova Scotia) or call 902.424.4649

CANADA POST REVIEWING RURAL MAILBOXES

Canada Post will be reviewing all rural mailboxes across the country over the next several years in order to address traffic safety concerns for our rural mail drivers. Communication and Community Outreach play a big role in the review process. If you would like more information or a presentation to your municipal council on the review process please

contact: Tinna Bonner – Canada Post Communications – Rural Delivery Safety at 902-494-4881 or via email tinna.bonner@canadapost.ca.

OVERVIEW OF FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES’ NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

The need to protect the long-term value of federal infrastructure investments was among the key messages that municipal leaders took to Parliament Hill when FCM's National Board of Directors met in Ottawa from Nov. 18 to 21, 2009. This year's annual Advocacy Days were carried out as the federal government enters an era of large fiscal deficits and the need to balance its budget. Board members met with 40 Parliamentarians, including 11 federal Cabinet ministers, in efforts to further strengthen municipal-federal government partnerships, discuss specific municipal priorities, and to position the municipal agenda in the year ahead.

For the second year in a row, Minister Baird addressed the full Board at its Saturday meeting. He noted that with the Government of Canada facing a \$58-million deficit, fiscal discipline will be exercised in the coming year. However, he said the government also believes there is a need to protect gains such as the GST rebate and the gas tax transfer, as well as to ensure that all the money in the economic stimulus fund is spent.

In addition to Advocacy Days, FCM's standing committees met to discuss a range of municipal issues including: the FCM climate change report that is scheduled to be released in the lead up to COP15; the soon-to-be released report on immigration; an update on FCM's commitment to monitor the developments on the Buy American negotiations between Canada and the U.S.; and FCM's strategy to address the flexibility required by municipalities to meet the infrastructure stimulus deadline. Detailed reports from each standing committee follow.

RESOLUTIONS RESPONSES

At the November Conference, delegates passed 17 resolutions, which were forwarded to the appropriate government departments for consideration. The following responses have been received to date. When responses are received, they will be printed in future editions of the “E-News Bulletin”. They will also be available on our Website.

Resolution 1A - SUPPORT FOR NOVA SCOTIA FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION - GOVERNMENT’S PURCHASING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS (Department of Agriculture)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities write to all municipalities to encourage support of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers’ Association (NSFGA) by developing and implementing purchasing policies and government funded programs that support the use of Nova Scotia fruit and vegetables first in all municipal government institutions; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request that the Province support the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers’ Association (NSFGA) by developing and

implementing purchasing policies and government funded programs that support the use of Nova Scotia fruit and vegetables first in all provincial government institutions; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities that the Federal government develop and implement purchasing policies and government funded programs that support the use of Canadian fruit and vegetables first in all federal government institutions.

RESPONSE: *Thank you for your letter of support for the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association and support for apples and apple products in publically funded institutions. I have forwarded your letter, together with Resolution 1A, to my senior staff for follow-up with our Procurement Division, Economic and Rural Development, and the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association.*

We have spent a good deal of time over the past two years, enhancing the Supplier Development Program and promoting opportunities for Nova Scotia and regional suppliers. Nova Scotia producers and processors have made in-roads into the food service and institutional system on a competitive basis.

Thank you for your support of local agriculture.

*The Honourable John MacDonell
Minister
December 3, 2009*

Resolution 1C—PROVINCE-WIDE BAN ON THE USE AND SALE OF NON-ESSENTIAL PESTICIDES (Department of Environment)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UNSM write to the Provincial Minister of Health requesting that the Province institute a province-wide ban on the use and sale of non-essential pesticides; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province use the legislation prepared by the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec as a guide in preparing a made-in-Nova Scotia approach to this important issue.

Background:

In 2007, the UNSM passed a resolution requesting that the Province of Nova Scotia broaden the existing legislation to permit any municipal unit in the Province to institute bylaws to manage, including but not limited to, banning the use of non-essential pesticides on lands within its boundaries but exclusive of land that is zoned for agriculture or forestry. The Province's response at the time was that it would consult with HRM on lessons learned from their pesticide management bylaw and report back to UNSM. The UNSM office has not been contacted by the Province since their response to the initial resolution was sent.

Over the past year Ontario and New Brunswick have introduced province-wide legislation banning the sale and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes. PEI is also considering regulations pending the actions of the other Maritime provinces. Given the new majority

government in Nova Scotia, the timing is right to recommend a province-wide ban which would put all municipalities on a level playing field.

RESPONSE: *Thank you for your November 17, 2009, letter and the enclosed copy of the UNSM resolution concerning the non-essential use of pesticides in Nova Scotia. The Premier has requested that I respond on his behalf.*

The government is interested in moving forward on this issue. At this point, Nova Scotia Environment, in conjunction with Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Affairs and Health Promotion & Protection, continue to discuss the best way to meet the needs and expectations of Nova Scotians. As you can appreciate, this is a very complex issue which demands that we explore all options.

I would also like to point out that we intend to consult with all stakeholders in advance of any potential change in legislation. I encourage you to provide any additional comments at that time.

I appreciate your members' continued concern and interest in this issue.

*The Honourable Sterling Belliveau
Minister
December 10, 2009*

Resolution 18A—RESOLUTION TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN FCM CONFERENCES BY USING AUDIO-VISUAL AND TELECONFERENCING TECHNOLOGIES AND ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS (Federation of Canadian Municipalities)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) petition the FCM to consider opening up the FCM conferences via teleconference and webinar technology to all members across the country; furthermore, that electronic voting methods that have been tried and proven, by utilized for voting on resolutions thus allowing significantly greater participation in this democratic process.

RESPONSE: *Thank you for your recent correspondence. The following is an update on the status of UNSM's resolution that FCM consider opening up to the conferences via teleconference and webinar technology to all members across the country; and that electronic voting methods that have been tried and proven, be utilized for voting on resolutions thus allowing significantly greater participation to the democratic process.*

We'd like to begin by thanking you! We believe that member participation is important, and we certainly appreciate creative ways to expand that participation. Below is an update on your recommendation.

On September 12, 2009 the National Board of Directors discussed this suggestion and reviewed our by laws and existing practice. The result of this discussion was two decisions related to this recommendation. They directed staff to:

- 1. continue the live web casting of selected portions of the 2010 Annual Conference, such as keynote addresses by national political party leaders, and expand notification of these live audio feeds to audiences beyond media. Staff should continue to post workshop presentations and selected keynote speeches and plenary videos on the FCM website shortly following the conference; and*

2. *maintain the current practice of limiting voting on resolutions and for Table Officers at the Annual General Meeting to registered delegates present at the meeting.*

These decisions were made based on the following information:

FCM's Annual Conference and Municipal Expo™ is the only opportunity many municipal officials have to meet face-to-face with their colleagues from across Canada to engage in debate and discussion, to network and exchange ideas, and to share experiences and best practices.

The location changes each year on a regional rotation to make it possible for delegates from across Canada to attend the conference at least once every two to three years.

FCM's Annual General Meeting (AGM) occurs within the FCM Annual Conference. The meeting process is defined in our bylaws, which provide no provision for off site, or proxy voting. In summary, the by laws state that only individuals present at the AGM are eligible to vote, and that voting is done either by secret ballot, or by a show of hands, in which case the Chair will only count the voting cards displayed.

With respect to Audio-Visual and Teleconferencing Technologies at the FCM Annual Conference the following is an update of our current practice:

- *FCM staff piloted a new initiative for the 2009 Annual Conference. Audio files of the plenary keynote speeches delivered by national political leaders were made available to media via live audio streaming on CNW's website (www.newswire.ca).*
- *A "post-conference page" on the FCM web site now features conference presentations (PowerPoint files and videos), news releases, AGM documents, the Policy Development Guide and the final conference program. Also available are the audio and video files of the plenary keynote speeches delivered by national political leaders.*

Thank you again for your suggestion. The discussion was helpful in reflecting on how best to engage members. Should you wish further information on our current practice please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Mr. Brock Carleton
Chief Executive Officer
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
December 16, 2009*

THE GREEN TOOLBOX - FOR GROWING SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPALITIES

*From UNSM's Municipal Sustainability Office
December 2009*

EVENTS, COURSES & PROGRAMS

FCM's 2010 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

February 10-12 at the Westin Hotel, Ottawa

Join over 600 of your peers from across the country at the premier municipal conference on sustainable community development. This year's theme — **Growing the Green Economy: Practical Solutions for Sustainable Communities** — is particularly relevant to

municipalities concerned about revitalizing local economies and creating jobs. Conference delegates will learn what practical steps can be taken to green their economy, and share perspectives with others interested in moving toward a more sustainable future. For more information, visit www.fcm.ca and click on **Events**.

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS' COURSE: A TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES & RESULTS

January 13 & 14 in Halifax

This 2-day intensive course will provide you with a solid grounding in a proven framework that has been used to guide sustainability change efforts around the world. The course includes a 1-year e-learning license and connection to sustainability professionals across Canada using The Natural Step Framework. For more information, click here.

<http://thenaturalstep.org/en/canada/learning-programs/level-one-course>

THUMB A RIDE: NEW RIDE SHARE PROGRAM IN NS

An exciting new ride-sharing program has been launched in Nova Scotia, and a call is being sent out to all drivers and riders in Canada to join this new social network. It's safe, economical and green — and it knows no boundaries. For more information, go to www.ethumbaride.com or contact Sue Kashanski at 634-4616 or shk@eastlink.ca.

RESOURCES

STUDY FINDS NO WIDESPREAD IMPACT OF TURBINES ON PROPERTY VALUES

A view of a wind energy facility does not demonstrably impact home sales prices, says a new analysis from the US Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The report is based on site visits, data collection, and analysis of almost 7,500 single-family home sales. "No matter how we looked at the data, the same result kept coming back - no evidence of widespread impacts," says report author Ben Hoen. To read more and for a copy of the report, click here: <http://newscenter.lbl.gov/press-releases/2009/12/02/wind-power-property-values/>

SWEDISH FOR COMMON SENSE...

A study by the Sustainable Society Foundation ranked Sweden #1 on the Sustainable Society Index in 2008. So when a diverse group of "green minded" Haligonians were offered the opportunity to take part in a sustainability study tour of Sweden they jumped at the chance. Comprising representatives from the private sector, Dalhousie University, Provincial and Municipal Government, the group visited a number of cities in southern Sweden including Malmö, Gothenburg, Växjö and Karlskrona. Check out <http://www.halifax.ca/environment/semo.html> for some of their lessons learned. For more information on the sustainability study tour please contact Deanna Wilmshurst at wilmsd@halifax.ca.

NEW FCM REPORT TO JUMP-START FEDERAL CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN: *ACT LOCALLY — THE MUNICIPAL ROLE IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE*

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities recently released a new report showing the federal government can jump-start its national climate change strategy by partnering with municipalities on cost-effective, community-based projects. Entitled *Act Locally — The Municipal Role in Fighting Climate Change*, the report chronicles what Canada's municipalities are doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – and how much more they could do as full partners in a national climate change strategy. For a copy of the report,

click here: http://www.fcm.ca/CMFiles/FCM_Climate_En_Final1RSG-1272009-2598.pdf or contact Maurice Gingues at 613-907-6395 or mgingues@fcm.ca.

NEW DATA RELEASED UNDER THE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REPORTING PROGRAM

Environment Canada's 2008 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data collected under the GHG Emissions Reporting Program is available on the program website (www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/ghg/facility_e.cfm). The website provides key data tables that can be viewed or downloaded, a search tool to create personalized queries and an overview with analysis nationally, by provinces/territories, by sectors and across the 2004-2008 period. For additional information about the program, please contact the Greenhouse Gas Division, at (819) 994-0684 or by e-mail at ghg@ec.gc.ca.

FCM'S NEW GUIDE ON WASTE DIVERSION

Green Municipal Fund has produced the latest addition to its Sustainability Solution series, ***Getting to 50% and Beyond: Waste Diversion Success Stories from Canadian Municipalities***. Released during Waste Reduction Week in Canada (October 19-25), this publication showcases municipalities across Canada that have succeeded in diverting 50 per cent or more of their waste, and examines the innovative programs, policies and technologies that helped them get there. For a copy of the guide, click here: http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/files/Capacity_Building_-_Waste/WasteDiversion-EN.pdf

NEW SUSTAINABLE FLEET PILOT PROJECT FOR NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES

Clean Nova Scotia has launched a new sustainable fleet pilot project for Nova Scotia municipalities and utilities. The goal of the program is to assist fleet managers and operators to improve their vehicle fleet efficiency by reducing fuel consumption, GHG emissions, and operating costs. By taking advantage of this opportunity to participate in the program - free of charge - your fleet will receive helpful consultations, training, and resources to make genuine improvements to fleet performance while reducing adverse impacts on our environment. To find out more about the program, please contact Derek Gillis, Sustainable Fleet Coordinator at Clean Nova Scotia by telephone (902-420-7944 or toll free: 1-800-665-5377) or by e-mail (dgillis@clean.ns.ca).

A NEW HANDBOOK ON BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute recently released *PLANNING BY DESIGN: a healthy communities handbook*. The purpose of the handbook is to share and generate ideas on how places can be planned and designed more sustainably for healthy, active living and to retain and attract residents, investors and visitors. For a copy of the handbook, please visit: <http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/Publications/innovativepolicypapers.aspx> or contact Loretta Ryan by telephone (1-800-668-1448, x 226) or e-mail (policy@ontarioplanners.on.ca).

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION HEROES: LESSONS FROM REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE

The Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF), an agency of the City of Toronto, has been providing grant support to community-based climate actions for over 15 years. A video and scoping paper detailing grant recipients' reflections on what makes a community climate action project successful is available by clicking here. (http://www.toronto.ca/taf/dan_leckie_forum.htm)

LATEST CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS REPORT

Environment Canada, Statistics Canada and Health Canada have released the latest Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI) report which highlights water quality information. It is entitled *Canada's Authoritative Source for Environmental Information at your Fingertips* and can be viewed at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/envirozine/default.asp?lang=En&n=12022B77-1>.

As well, as an established and credible source of environmental information, CESI released Environment Canada's latest results on three issues of concern to Canadians: air quality, water quality and greenhouse gas emissions and these findings can be viewed at: www.ec.gc.ca/indicateurs-indicators.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR A TRANSIT RESEARCH INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Nova Scotia Transit Research Incentive Program is a \$250,000 investment towards new or improved public transit services in rural and unserved urban areas and will provide a maximum of \$50,000 for eligible projects. Applications for the Accessible Transportation Assistance Program and the Nova Scotia Transit Research Incentive Program are available online at www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/muns/infr. The deadline for applications is January 8th, 2010. For more information, contact, Georgina Dimock at Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations by telephone (424-5965) or e-mail (dimockgm@gov.ns.ca).

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES FUND

Environment Canada is currently accepting applications for its Environmental Damages Fund (EDF) and proposals should be submitted by February 1, 2010. For details on the EDF funds available in your province, please refer to the "Funds Available" section on our EDF website: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/edf-fde/default.asp?lang=En&n=81A2C482-0>. If you are interested in discussing a project idea or submitting a funding application, please contact Heather Gordon at Heather.Gordon@ec.gc.ca or (902) 426-3716.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FUNDING - WEB PORTAL LAUNCHED

The Community Action Program for the Environment (CAPE) web portal brings together, for the first time, Environment Canada's 10 community funding programs on a single website. Canadians now have easy access to information about all of their community funding programs, including each programs' goals, eligibility criteria, funding deadlines, geographic range, available funding, and website. For more information about the new web portal, click here. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/pace-cape/Default.asp?lang=En&n=06DD166D-1>.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS

Nova Scotia Power is offering free energy efficiency upgrades to low-income homeowners who heat their homes with electricity to reduce their energy use and save money. For more information, please call 1-877-434-2136 or contact Katherine Reed at Nova Scotia Power by e-mail (katherine.reed@nspower.ca).

ecONOVA SCOTIA IS SEEKING FUNDING APPLICATIONS FROM MUNICIPALITIES

If you have not completed your municipal energy inventory and audit, please submit your application anytime before January 31, 2010 under ecoNova Scotia's Category 1 *Municipal Program for Clean Air and Climate Change*. Funding is also available under Category 2 to support recommendations based on the energy inventory and audit and Category 3 to

assist with community initiatives to reduce energy and emission. For more information and/or assistance with the application process, please phone Robert Cuthbert at 424-7500 or visit ecoNova Scotia's website at www.gov.ns.ca/ecoNovaScotia/etp.

For more information about the initiatives included in the GREEN TOOLBOX, please contact Debbie Nielsen, Municipal Sustainability Coordinator by telephone (423-8312) or e-mail (dnielsen@unsm.ca).

OBITUARIES

Mr. Thomas Gerard (Jerry) Marsh, former Mayor for the Town of New Waterford

Mr. Louis Edward Moir, former Deputy Mayor for the City of Halifax

Mr. Gerald Yetman, former Deputy Warden for the County of Victoria

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Population Forum—February 9, 2010, Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, NS

UNSM Spring Workshop—April 29th – 30th, 2010, Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, NS

**2010 Silver Economy Summit—May 13th – 14th, 2010, Halifax, NS
(www.SilverEconomySummit.ca)**

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