

Council Member Motion

Notice given on: Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Meeting Date Wednesday, March 1, 2023

From Councillor Justice

Subject Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Convention

Background

Our current policy of only the mayor and a single councillor attending the annual convention of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is a missed opportunity for our community and should be adjusted for the current times in which the municipal role has expanded and funding opportunities have complexified.

According to the FCM, municipalities are being increasingly recognized as essential partners in the success of federal initiatives and since 2005, direct transfers to municipalities has increased by 300%.

There is increasing need to both understand and influence the federal municipal agenda and to link to important federal resources for our community, such as the Green Municipal Fund, housing initiatives, and capital and asset management grants.

Similar to UBCM and AVICC, the federal conference provides opportunities to learn best practices and gain new insights to deal with the complex challenges facing our municipality - necessary tools to tackle today's complex challenges and gear up for future ones.

The federal conference also provides opportunity to network with other local leaders from all over Canada, and to meet municipal experts, key municipal partners, and representatives of federal parties.

Attendance at the federal conference also raises the profile of North Cowichan on the national stage and allows North Cowichan to have some influence over the national municipal agenda.

Finally, this council has strived to work collegially and to develop a team spirit. Attending the federal conference provides another opportunity to build working relationships and shared understandings amongst councillors.

As for cost, though there will be additional travel cost associated with attending FCM when compared to UBCM, ABICC, and LGMA conferences, this will be somewhat balanced by a lowered need for both in-house training events and the use/need of councillors' personal training allowances.

Recommendation

THAT Council's conference policy be changed to allow the option for all members of council to attend FCM, by changing "The Mayor, and one Councillor (randomly selected) is permitted to attend the FCM annual convention" to "All members of Council are permitted to attend the FCM annual convention"

Attachment: (1) Council Conference Attendance Policy
