



Kathy Lawson/Frances

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To

cc

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Subject Fw: President's Corner update/Bulletin de la présidente de la FCM



FCM President/ Présidente de la FCM

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cc

Subject President's Corner update/Bulletin de la présidente de la FCM

[La version française se trouve à la suite du texte anglais.](#)



Dear FCM Members:

Much has occurred since my last President's Corner message in October. We had a successful launch of our formal submission to the federal government on the new long-term infrastructure plan. We also received endorsements from our [Municipal Infrastructure Forum](#) stakeholders, launched our [Great Canadian Infrastructure Challenge](#) and held the [Big City Mayors' Caucus](#) meeting – all in support of our campaign to secure long-term infrastructure investment.

This President's update comes to you just days after our hugely successful Advocacy Days in Ottawa – where our Board members from across the country met MPs from four parties. We used these face-to-face encounters to continue building our relationship with Parliamentarians and deliver our key messages on the long-term infrastructure plan.

During the meetings, our directors provided each MP with a customized information package that summarized Gas Tax Fund investments made in the MP's riding. In addition, MPs heard

details of FCM's submission to the government on the infrastructure plan that we anticipate will be announced when Budget 2013 is tabled.

As President, I had the opportunity to meet with the Saskatchewan Conservative Caucus and Quebec NDP Caucus. I also met with: Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance; Denis Lebel, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Communities; Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services; Steven Fletcher, Minister of State for Transport; and many others. From these meetings, I came away impressed with the respect that FCM and our member municipalities enjoy among all political parties.

Perhaps the clearest sign of the respect we enjoy is that all of the parties represented in the House of Commons took the time to speak with us. NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair, Liberal Party Leader Bob Rae and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May delivered keynotes to our luncheons.

Then, in a rare move, Minister Lebel attended our Board of Directors' meeting and spoke to us about the long-term infrastructure plan and the government's partnership with municipalities. Also in attendance was Minister Fletcher.

Our Board members and I were busy as we had a record number of meetings with MP and Senators. In all, our Board members met with 153 Parliamentarians – 74 Conservatives, 51 NDP, 27 Liberals and 1 Green Party – and smashed last year's record of 113 Advocacy Days meetings. Our reception – hosted right inside Parliament Hill's Centre Block – attracted more than 300 Parliamentarians from all parties.

The 35-per-cent increase in meetings over last year is a testament to the success we're having in building our profile in federal circles. MPs want to meet us and hear our position on key issues, and share theirs at the same time. Some made a point of telling us that FCM is a trusted organization because we listen, and make constructive recommendations.

These are the kind of comments we love to hear! This can only help us as we enter the final crucial weeks of advocacy around the long-term infrastructure plan. As President, I'm proud of the work we are doing and the advancements we are making. It will be interesting and exciting to see how these efforts play out for us when Budget 2013 is tabled in a few short months.

As always, I would welcome your thoughts about issues your community is facing and how FCM might be able to help. Also, if you would like a customized information package to share with your MP, let me know and it can be provided. I can be reached at president@fcm.ca or 780-496-8120. Stay tuned for another update from me just before the holidays. Please visit fcmchallenge.ca and support our campaign by taking the Infrastructure Challenge and passing it along to others.

Warmest regards,

Karen Leibovici President Councillor, City of Edmonton