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FCM Update

August 26, 2013

Update on FCM National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group

On Friday, August 23, FCM's **National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group** met in Montréal to review the federal government's progress on rail safety and to begin the process of making specific rail safety recommendations to the federal government.

After the meeting, FCM issued a **news release** outlining the following three priority areas:

1. Equip and support municipal first responders to rail emergencies:
 - Municipalities need to know what dangerous goods are being transported through their communities so local services can plan and respond effectively to emergencies.
 - Railways and federal agencies cannot plan for emergencies alone. Local governments and authorities must be involved as partners in emergency planning.
2. Ensure federal and industry policies and regulations address the rail safety concerns of municipalities:
 - At the local level, rail incidents can have significant impacts on public safety, the economy and the environment.
 - Municipal concerns must be included in federal government risk assessment and policy development on rail safety.
3. Prevent downloading of rail safety and emergency response costs to municipal taxpayers:
 - Third-party liability insurance systems must be strengthened to prevent the downloading of liability costs on municipal taxpayers, even in the event of bankruptcies.

You can help get our message out. On Twitter and Facebook, please share, "FCM's National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group calls for swift, concrete federal action on rail safety. bit.ly/176EDPt #CDNmuni".

These priorities will guide FCM's discussion with the federal government and the rail industry as we work together to improve rail safety. If you have any questions, please **contact me** or rail policy analyst **Daniel Rubinstein**, 613-907-6294.

Sincerely,

Claude Dauphin
President

Municipal leaders approve rail safety principles at first National Working Group meeting (29/07/2013)

OTTAWA, ON - Members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group held their first meeting this morning and approved guiding principles to address national municipal rail safety concerns.

"The federal government must work in close partnership with municipalities if it is going to effectively address rail safety," said FCM President Claude Dauphin. "Ensuring the safety of Canada's rail system is without question a federal responsibility, but it requires careful coordination with all other orders of government."

The following principles were agreed to as part of the first meeting:

- Ensuring the safety of Canada's rail transportation system must be a national priority and a clear federal responsibility.
- The government must respond to safety recommendations made by the Transportation Safety Board, and address previously identified safety deficiencies.
- Federal-municipal partnership is essential to ensuring rail safety.

On behalf of its 2000 member municipalities the Federation of Canadian Municipalities will use these principles to guide discussions with the federal government on rail safety issues with a direct impact on municipalities. FCM looks forward to working in closer partnership with the government on these issues and anticipates a meeting with the Minister of Transport in the near future

Going forward, the Working Group will continue to provide strategic input to FCM's work in this area and provides a mechanism for coordination of national concerns and perspectives. The group will reconvene in a few weeks to review progress made with the federal government and to begin identifying specific rail safety recommendations.

The working group is co-chaired by Mayor Doug Reycraft (Municipality of Southwest Middlesex), Chair of the Standing Committee on Municipal Infrastructure and Transportation Policy and Mayor Pauline Quinlan (Ville de Bromont), Chair, Quebec Caucus. Other working group members include Mayor Don Atchison (City of Saskatoon), President Bernard Généreux (Fédération québécoise des municipalités), Mayor Bernard Sévigny (Union des municipalités du Québec), President David Marit, (Chair, Rural Forum), Director Susie Gimse (Regional District of Squamish-Lillooet), Councillor Merrill Henderson (City of Moncton) and FCM President Claude Dauphin.

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Municipal leaders call for concrete federal action on rail safety (23/08/2013)

MONTREAL, QC- Members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group called today for swift, concrete federal action on rail safety. The group met in Montreal to discuss rail safety and begin the process of making formal recommendations to the federal government.

"Today, municipal leaders have identified three priority areas in which we are calling for swift and concrete federal action to ensure the safety of Canada's rail networks, and the communities in which they operate," said FCM president Claude Dauphin.

FCM's Working Group identified the need for action in the following three priority areas, calling on the federal government to:

- Equip and support municipal first responders to rail emergencies;
- Ensure federal and industry policies and regulations address the rail safety concerns of municipalities;
- Prevent downloading of rail safety and emergency response costs to local taxpayers.

"The disaster in Lac Mégantic has clearly raised questions about the insurance system that should guarantee companies have sufficient coverage to cover all costs associated with rail emergencies," said Mayor Pauline Quinlan, co-Chair of the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group.

FCM has met with Minister Raitt and Transport Canada has been in consultation with FCM staff to develop recommendations for the federal government to effectively address rail safety. Municipalities welcome Minister Raitt's approach to addressing this issue in partnership with municipalities.

"Canada's railway system plays an important role in supporting our economy, transporting 70 per cent of Canadian exports and providing thousands of jobs for communities across the country. We must ensure its safety for Canadians and our economy," said Mayor Doug Reycraft, co-Chair of the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group.

Canadians rely on their local services during rail emergencies, and they expect those services to be properly equipped to respond. FCM is committed to continue working with Minister Raitt and Transport Canada to identify the federal and railway industry changes necessary to ensure the safety of Canadian railways. FCM will be meeting with Minister Raitt to follow-up on the working group's recommendations in the near future.

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