



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Audit, Finance and Administration Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	August 15, 2019
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Federation of Canadian Municipalities Voluntary Advocacy Fund Contribution (FCS19065) (City Wide) <b>(Outstanding Business List Item)</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Katie Black (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4169 Tom Hewitson (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4149
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Brian McMullen Director, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Corporate Services Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

Council, at its meeting of February 13, 2019, through Item 1, Report 12-002 of the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee (AF&A), directed staff to report back to the AF&A Committee with the number of municipalities that participate in the Voluntary Outstanding Advocacy Fund Contribution to determine the level of funding, if any, the City of Hamilton should contribute of the requested \$45,200.

## INFORMATION

### Background

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has been the national voice of municipal governments for over one hundred years. Their focus is to advocate for municipalities to ensure citizens' needs are reflected in federal policies and programs.

As a member of FCM, the City receives an annual invoice for membership fees. In 2018, the City received FCM's invoice with an option to contribute to their Legal Defence Fund in the amount of \$14 K. Council approved the funding from the Legislative budget at the April 11, 2018 Council meeting.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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At its Audit, Finance and Administration Committee meeting on February 7, 2019, Council was presented with Appendix "A" to Report FCS19065, FCM's annual invoice for 2019-2020 membership fees. The invoice includes an optional Advocacy Fund Contribution request totalling \$45,200. As this is voluntary, staff was asked to report back with a list of other municipalities who intend to contribute to determine what level, if any, the City of Hamilton should contribute of the \$45,200 requested. The remainder of the invoice, about \$93,000, has been paid.

Further correspondence with FCM has revealed that, in the future, there will not be a call for special contributions for predictable expenses such as the Legal Defence Fund or future federal election campaigns. Instead these expenses will be incorporated into the long-term financial planning and will be rolled into the membership fees.

Staff reached out to FCM and, at the time of writing Report FCS19065, the following list of paid and committed contributors to the Special Advocacy Fund was provided:

- Vancouver, BC
- Surrey, BC
- Burnaby, BC
- Most municipalities in the Vancouver lower mainland
- Edmonton, AB
- Calgary, AB
- Saskatoon, SK
- Winnipeg, MB
- Kitchener-Waterloo, ON
- London, ON
- Windsor, ON
- Mississauga, ON
- Gatineau, QC
- Halifax, NS
- St John's, NL

FCM indicated that they do not provide the full list of participants and amounts contributed. However, they indicated that this is a representative sample.

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: The 2019 Legislative budget includes \$15 K for FCM's Legal Defence Fund. As this contribution has been rolled into the regular membership fees moving forward, the \$15 K could be reallocated, if desired, to the Voluntary Advocacy Fund. Any contribution to the Voluntary Advocacy Fund beyond \$15,000 will create a variance.

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Staffing: There are no staffing implications in respect of Report FCS19065.

Legal: There are no legal implications in respect of Report FCS19065.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report FCS19065 – City of Hamilton Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2019-2020 Membership Invoice

KB/dt