

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

DATE: 2016 January 27

FROM: CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: 2016 FCM MEMBERSHIP FEE

At the 2016 January 18 Council meeting, Council considered a report recommending payment of the 2016 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) membership fee. Included on the invoice was an optional contribution of \$3906.32 based on a per capita charge towards a travel fund that supports the participation of elected officials from small communities.

This report was DEFERRED pending receipt of further information from staff on the structure and eligibility criteria of the travel fund.

The FCM travel fund was established in 1989 to permit smaller communities in BC to participate on the FCM Board of Directors. BC and Saskatchewan are the only two provinces to establish a travel fund of this nature. The voluntary contributions to the travel fund are collected by FCM and channeled back to BC to be held and administered at the discretion of the UBCM.

At the time the fund was established in BC, there were three categories of directors with the following selection criteria:

- UBCM – selected by UBCM and paid fully by UBCM. Did not participate in the travel fund.
- Large municipalities -two delegates selected by the three largest municipalities.
- Other Directors – five directors selected from the remaining local governments in the Province.

As noted, the rationale for the travel fund was to remove the full cost burden to finance the travel costs on the municipality or regional district for the elected directors. Prior to the travel fund, each local government had to agree to pay the full travel costs if a candidate was successful in seeking a director position. This burden was perceived to limit those that could run for a position on the FCM Board because there was a sizeable financial burden as the local government had to bear all of the costs.

Surrey, Burnaby and Vancouver

At the time the fund was established, only Surrey, Burnaby and Vancouver could "select" the 2 delegates from this group (Large municipalities). As a result, there was no basis for the rest of the local governments to pay for 2 directors that they did not have a role in selecting. Therefore, the fund was designed not to have these communities included as contributors since they were not eligible for reimbursement.

Essentially, these three municipalities were seen to be in a separate group that had different eligibility to be directors, different selection processes and not part of the wider travel fund.

Travel Fund Criteria

The criteria for the travel fund were developed by UBCM, and the FCM does not influence how the fund is established or administered.

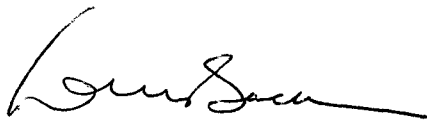
As a result of questions recently raised by former UBCM President and Burnaby Councillor Sav Dhaliwal, the UBCM Board of Directors has agreed to review the eligibility criteria for the travel fund. The Board has requested a staff report, which will be considered at its meeting in April.

Financial Status of the Travel Fund

As of November 30, 2015, the balance in the travel fund stands at \$ \$321,580.78.

Member travel expenses paid from the travel fund in the fiscal year May 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015 amount to \$ 13,211 paid on behalf of four directors.

In the past year, Vancouver and Burnaby were the only large municipalities to contribute to the travel fund.



Dennis Back
City Clerk