

BIG CITY MAYORS' CAUCUS

SUMMARY	Page 2
2020 Big City Mayors' Caucus membership	Page 3
City of Victoria correspondence – pending Freedom of Information Request	Page 4
Letter to CRD Chair Barb Desjardins from FCM (June 27, 2016)	Page 5
Correspondence from Chair Barb Desjardins to FCM (Aug 8, 2016)	Page 6
Response from FCM CEO to Chair Desjardins (Aug 8, 2016)	Page 7
Letter from CRD Vice-Chair Dave Howe (May 11, 2018)	Page 8

SUMMARY:

Big City Mayors' Caucus 2020 – [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#)

“The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has been the national voice of municipal government since 1901. Our members include more than 2,000 municipalities of all sizes, from Canada's cities and rural communities, to northern communities and 20 provincial and territorial municipal associations.”

The Big City Mayors' Caucus (BCMC) is the voice of Canada's biggest cities. Cities are engines that drive our country forward, creating local jobs and local growth. Canada's cities are also hubs for innovation, where solutions are found, tested and shared to meet national challenges playing out in communities across the country. Through the FCM, the BCMC partners with the federal government in nation-building through city-building. The Caucus currently consists of 22 mayors. It is a voice from Canada's larger cities to the Federal Government. Annual meetings of the BCMC are held at the same time and place as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities annual meeting. This past year, BCMC discussions with federal government officials included: lobbying to modernize the federal-municipal relationship; new funding tools for municipalities; permanent transit funding; housing affordability; and disaster mitigation.

The BCMC currently has 8 member cities from Ontario, 5 from Quebec, two from Alberta, two from British Columbia, two from Saskatchewan and one each from Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia and Manitoba. It is unrealistic to expect BC's two largest cities -- Vancouver or Surrey -- to represent Greater Victoria's interests. Just as St. John's, Newfoundland is geographically separated from the rest of Canada, so too is Greater Victoria and Vancouver Island separated from the rest of BC. Vancouver Island has a population of over 750,000 that exceeds the population of Newfoundland/Labrador by 150,000. Most Vancouver Island residents live within a two-hour drive of Victoria. Vancouver Island and Greater Victoria's unique interests are not represented at the BCMC. Greater Victoria (defined by Statistics Canada as a Census Metropolitan Area) had a population of 367,770 in 2016, of which only 85,792 lived in the City of Victoria. Despite the City of Victoria's relatively small population, it is the centre of a much larger population, with all the issues and problems faced by other BCMC member cities.

Local politicians have recognized the need for membership in the BCMC for some time. Three unsuccessful attempts have been made to bring Greater Victoria's voice to this important group, as follows:

1st Attempt: Prior to 2016, the City of Victoria applied for membership in the BCMC and was declined, (A Freedom of Information request has been submitted to Victoria for the related correspondence and it will be posted as an amendment to this document, if and when it is received.)

2nd Attempt: The CRD Board sought membership for the CRD in the BCMC. Esquimalt Mayor Desjardins, then Chair of the CRD, sent a message to Brock Carlton, CEO of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on August 8, 2016, seeking CRD membership in the BCMC “as a region”. He responded that no further action would be taken until an analysis was done by FCM staff on guidelines for BCMC membership, to be reviewed and reported out in 2017.

3rd Attempt: On May 10, 2017, the CRD Board passed a motion in favour of requesting that “the Mayor of Victoria be added to the Big City Mayors' Caucus” on the basis that the Mayor represented the interests of the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of over 350,000 people. To this end, on May 11, 2017, CRD Vice Chair Dave Howe wrote to the FCM and the Chair of the BCMC, Mayor Don Iverson of Edmonton. The request has not been granted.

Summation: While a merger of Saanich and Victoria into a single city would not guarantee membership in the BCMC, the combined population of the two municipalities would exceed 200,000. This would improve the likelihood of acceptance. The current BCMC criteria for inclusion is cities only, not regions. A merged city of over 200,000 would stand a better chance of gaining admittance to the BCMC than the current City of Victoria at around 90,000.

2020 Big City Mayors' Caucus Membership:

Mayor:	City:	2016 Population:	2016 CMA Population:*
Don Iverson	Edmonton	932,546	1,321,426
Brian Bowman	Winnipeg	705,244	778,489
Danny Breen	St. John's	108,680	205,955
Mike Savage	Halifax	403,131	403,390
Valerie Plante	Montreal	1,704,694	4,098,927
Sylvie Parent	Longueuil	239,700	Included in Montreal
Jim Watson	Ottawa	934,243	1,323,783
Barry Vrbanovic	Kitchener	233,222	523,894
Marc Demers	Laval	422,993	Included in Montreal
Ed Holder	London	383,822	494,069
Regis Lebeaume	Quebec City	531,902	800,296
Michael Fougere	Regina	215,106	236,481
Naheed Nenshi	Calgary	1,239,220	1,392,609
John Tory	Toronto	2,731,571	928,040
Patrick Brown	Brampton	593,638	Included in Toronto
Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin	Gatineau	276,245	Included in Ottawa
Charlie Clark	Saskatoon	246,376	295,095
Fred Eisenberger	Hamilton	536,917	747,545
Kennedy Stewart	Vancouver	631,486	2,463,431
Drew Dilkens	Windsor	217,188	329,144
Bonnie Crombie	Mississauga	721,599	Included in Toronto
Doug McCallum	Surrey	517,887	Included in Vancouver

* CMA Census Metropolitan Area is the total 2016 Population, including suburban communities, of each City.

District of Saanich	(2016)	114,148	
City of Victoria	(2016)	85,792	367,770
Combined Population		199,940	

Population data from: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

A Freedom of Information request has been filed with the City of Victoria for correspondence between the City, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Big City Mayors' Caucus – no response received as of March 18, 2020

Chair *RY* Board
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0230-20 FCM

June 27, 2016

Chair Barb Desjardins
 Capital Regional District
 P.O. Box 1000, 625 Fisgard Street
 Victoria, British Columbia V8W 2S6

Dear Chair Desjardins:

Thank you for your note and your comments about the value of FCM. You are absolutely right: our strength is our membership.

Mayor Iveson and his colleagues raised the issue of BCMC membership at their June 2, 2016 meeting in Winnipeg. The outcome of that discussion was the recognition that there are a range of variables that must be considered in ensuring effective, clear and representative guidelines for determining membership in the BCMC. The Caucus identified population, shared priorities, regional economic and political relevance among several criteria that must be consider and measured against the core strengths, functionality and mandate of the BCMC.

As a result, the Caucus has directed FCM to undertake detailed analysis and research to review these variables to understand how various population/regional economic/political data could best be used to determine guidelines for membership.

Staff will bring a final report to the Caucus in the fall of 2016 for consideration at the 2017 meeting of the BCMC.

FCM partners with the federal government in nation building through city building, and the BCMC is a key instrument. We capitalize on the voice of the BCMC to bring attention and focus to the broader range of policy and advocacy issues as they play out in urban Canada. FCM remains committed to working on behalf of its entire membership, including the BCMC, to achieve results for the municipal sector.

I would be glad to discuss further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Brock Carlton
 Chief Executive Officer

President
Président
 Clark Somerville
 Councillor
 Regional Municipality of
 Halton, ON

First Vice-President
Première vice-présidente
 Jenny Gerbasi
 Councillor
 City of Winnipeg, MB

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Erich Nahser-Ringer

From: CRDBoard
Subject: FW: (info): Correspondence re. Big city Mayors Caucus
Attachments: Barb Desjardins BCMC June 2016 (letter).pdf; ATT00001.htm

On Aug 8, 2016, at 9:14 AM, Brock Carlton <bcarlton@fcm.ca> wrote:

CRD EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Received
AUG 18 2016

Hi Barb

Thank you for your note and your comments about the value of FCM. You are absolutely right: our strength is our membership. The question of BCMC membership was discussed by the Mayors at their June meeting. You should have received a letter in June regarding that discussion. If you did not receive that letter please let me know and we will resend it. Here is a quote from the note, which captures the essence of the discussion:

The outcome of the membership discussion was "the recognition that there are a range of variables that must be considered in ensuring effective, clear and representative guidelines for determining membership in the BCMC. The Caucus identified population, shared priorities, regional economic and political relevance among several criteria that must be consider and measured against the core strengths, functionality and mandate of the BCMC. As a result, the Caucus has directed FCM to undertake detailed analysis and research to review these variables to understand how various population/regional economic/political data could best be used to determine guidelines for membership. Staff will bring a final report to the Caucus in the fall of 2016 for consideration at the 2017 meeting of the BCMC."

FCM staff will undertake this analysis in the fall. The date for the winter meeting of the Caucus has not yet been set, so I cannot be more precise at this stage with respect to timing of their next discussion.

There is not much more to say on this question right now. However, if you have questions please do not hesitate to ask and I will try to provide whatever information I can.

Regards

Brock Carlton

Chief Executive Officer | CEO's Office Chef de la direction | Bureau
du chef de la direction T. 613-907-6253

Chair
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0230-20 FCM

-----Original Message-----

From: CRD Chair [mailto:crdchair@crd.bc.ca]

Sent: August-08-16 10:43 AM

To: Brock Carlton

Cc: Robert Lapham; Clark Somerville

Subject: Big city Mayors Caucus

Brock:

As the summer moves through and you are working toward the September board meeting I am hopeful to hear of a positive response to our request for a seat at the BCMC. CRD participation would be valuable both for our region but also to bring Vancouver Island urban perspective to BCMC and through them to FCM. The strength of FCM is through its full membership and regional representation and we of the CRD need to be at the table. As a former FCM committee representative I know there is significant value in what FCM does. Looking forward to your response.

Barb Desjardins

Chair CRD Board

Sent from my iPhone

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May 11, 2017

File: 0400-50
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Big City Mayor's Caucus

Brock Carlton
Chief Executive Officer
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5P3

Mayor Don Iveson
City of Edmonton
Chair Big City Mayor's Caucus
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2R7

Dear Mr. Carlton and Mayor Iveson:

RE: VICTORIA CENSUS METROPOLITAN REGION AT BIG CITY MAYOR'S CAUCUS

Last year the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board Chair wrote to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Big City Mayor's Caucus requesting that the CRD be added as a member of the Caucus. The Board has informally been made aware that because the FCM Big City Mayor's Caucus has previously rejected similar requests from other regional districts across the country, the CRD's request will also be rejected.

The CRD Board has explored alternatives for Greater Victoria and the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Greater Victoria – with a population of 367,770 – to be represented at the Big City Mayor's Caucus table, and agreed that appointing the Mayor of the City of Victoria is a reasonable solution. The City of Victoria and the Capital Region face similar challenges (housing affordability, mental health and addictions, congestion, etc.) and have some of the same opportunities (innovation, climate leadership, infrastructure partnerships, etc.) as the rest of Canada's big cities.

The Board considers having Greater Victoria and the Greater Victoria CMA – the largest urban region on Vancouver Island – represented at the Big City Mayor's Caucus necessary since the Caucus is a critically important venue where valuable policies are developed and where direct advocacy with the federal government is possible.

To this end, at its May 10, 2017 meeting, the CRD Board unanimously voted in favour of requesting the Mayor of the City of Victoria be added to the Big City Mayor's Caucus to represent the CMA of Greater Victoria. The CRD Board looks forward to a positive response to this request and to the Mayor of the City of Victoria participating in the important future-focused advocacy work you are doing on behalf of big cities and their residents.

Sincerely,

Dave Howe
Vice Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: Board of Directors, Capital Regional District