

Office of the Chair

600 Comox Road, Courtenay, BC V9N 3P6
Tel: 250-334-6000 Fax: 250-334-4358
Toll free: 1-800-331-6007
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca



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November 19, 2019

Directors
Comox Valley Regional District board

Re: BC Representation on the Western Economic Solutions Taskforce

In response to the current national conversation regarding economic challenges facing some of Canada's western provinces, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) recently approved the creation of a Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST).

The mandate of WEST is to build on FCM's policy and advocacy priorities to lead important conversations between municipal leaders and the federal government on how to support impacted communities through this economic crisis. This conversation will be advanced at the next FCM Board meeting at the end of November and the taskforce will seek to engage in a respectful dialogue with the federal government in the following weeks.

Notwithstanding FCM First Vice President Garth Frizzell from Prince George, there is no one from British Columbia on the Western Economic Solutions Taskforce. BC is an integral part of any proposed economic solution and should be included this process, given BC's reliance on a resource economy and our challenges as markets and political landscapes have changed.

I respectfully request consideration of the following:

THAT the Comox Valley Regional District Board send a letter to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities requesting that the membership for the Western Economic Solutions Taskforce be amended to include representation from British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Ketler', is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Jesse Ketler
Chair

Enclosure: FCM Communiqué dated November 8, 2019

COMMUNIQUÉ



Launching the Western Economic Solutions Taskforce

Dear members,

There's a national conversation unfolding right now about how we as a country must address the economic challenges facing some of our western provinces—and the frustrations those challenges are fuelling.

No order of government is closer to the impact of these challenges than municipalities of all sizes. FCM is acting quickly to ensure the perspectives of western communities are well-represented at the national level, and to drive new solutions on how to best support them through this economic crisis. FCM knows the challenges that come with trying to speak with one voice from coast-to-coast-to-coast. When situations leave us feeling at odds with our fellow Canadians, municipal leaders are able to step beyond the politics to share solutions. Local governments are the bridge builders.

In consultation with a number of our members, yesterday FCM's Executive Committee approved the creation of a Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (or WEST).

This taskforce builds on the ongoing conversation FCM has led—including at our last Annual Conference—on the vital role municipalities play in Canada's future.

As part of its mandate, this taskforce will build on FCM's policy and advocacy priorities to lead important conversations between municipal leaders and the federal government on how to support impacted communities through this crisis. This conversation will be advanced at our upcoming Board meeting, and the taskforce will—in the coming weeks—seek to engage in a respectful direct dialogue with the federal government.

The taskforce will also be engaged to inform FCM policy in addressing this crisis, which ideally are also replicable learnings to other regions or policy issues. It will also seek to engage other FCM regional caucuses and member groups in dialogue with the objective of improving a shared understanding of respective regional perspectives.

WEST is comprised of:

- **Chair:** Randy Goulden, Chair of FCM's Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus
- **Co-Chair:** Al Kemmere, President of RMA
- **Co-Chair:** Charlie Clark, Mayor of Saskatoon
- Bill Karsten, FCM President
- Darren Hill, FCM Third Vice-President
- Ray Orb, President of SARM and FCM Rural Forum Chair
- Gordon Barnhart, President of SUMA
- Michael Fougere, Mayor of Regina
- Don Iveson, Mayor of Edmonton and BCMC Chair
- Naheed Nenshi, Mayor of Calgary
- Barry Morishita, President of AUMA
- Ralph Groening, President of AMM
- Brian Bowman, Mayor of Winnipeg
- Garth Frizzell, FCM First Vice-President *ex-officio
- Joanne Vanderheyden, FCM Second Vice-President *ex-officio
- Vicki-May Hamm, FCM Past President *ex-officio

FCM has a long track-record of bringing our members together to do what local governments often do—reach across traditional and regional boundaries to collectively address a national challenge.

Bill Karsten
FCM President



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24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5P3

T. 613-241-5221
F. 613-241-7440

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