

ATLANTIC MAYORS' CONGRESS
Holiday Inn, Truro, NS
September 7-9, 2016

PRESENT: Chair Bruce MacDougall
Mayor John Brigante, Windsor, NS
Warden Keith Hunter, Cumberland County, NS
Mayor Art Slipp, UMN
Mayor Bill Mills, Truro, NS
Warden Linda Gregory, Municipality of Digby, NS
Warden Reg Ritchie, Annapolis County, NS
Mayor Stephanie Anglehart-Paulin
Mayor Clifford Lee, Charlottetown, PE
Mayor Bob Taylor, Colchester County, NS
Mayor Mike Savage, HRM, NS
Mayor Don Downe, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, NS
Mayor David Walker, Town of Bridgewater, NS
Mayor Dawn Arnold, Moncton, NB
Mayor Jeff Cantwell, Wolfville, NS
Rowan Casely, Kensington, PE
Tony Keats, Municipality of Newfoundland and Labrador
Craig Pollett, Municipality of Newfoundland and Labrador

STAFF: Matt Kerrigan, Executive Director, Atlantic Mayors' Congress

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

1. WELCOME

Chair Bruce MacDougall called the meeting to order at 9:00am on Thursday, September 8th, 2016 at the Holiday Inn, Truro, Nova Scotia.

He welcomed those in attendance and thanked the host municipal units (Town of Truro and Municipality of the County of Colchester), Mayors Bill Mills and Bob Taylor, and staff from both units for hosting a reception the previous evening.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Warden Reg Ritchie and Warden Keith Hunter, the minutes from the Bridgewater meeting of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress held *date, 2016 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. FCM UPDATE - THIRD VICE PRESIDENT BILL KARSTEN, HRM

FCM Third President Bill Karsten was introduced to provide an update regarding FCM.

Mr. Karsten advised that his first official duty as FCM's Third Vice President was to bring greetings to the Atlantic Mayors' Congress. He stated that he has pledged to work at assisting the Mayor's Congress and Atlantic Canada and Canadian citizens to get the full benefits of the opportunities available to build our respective communities. He outlined FCM's role in

working with the Federal Government on our respective community priorities and noted that there were 300 projects approved for Atlantic Canada.

Mr. Karsten stated that at the annual FCM conference in Winnipeg it was clear that our work is far from over in the transformation of our towns and cities and the future is the goal. Phase 2 Infrastructure plans for 48 billion is underway.

Mr. Karsten emphasized the following points:

1. Need to make sure FCM gets new infrastructure program right for the next phase of building our communities. Local officials know what's best for our areas.
2. The relationship with the Feds is at its best at the present time. There is an understanding by the Federal Government of how important it is to communicate our priorities. Doing that with your local MP.
3. FCM works towards to connect Canadians to the proper channels to access information and departments to help all of us to move forward.
4. Canada 150 - Building our network of contacts will make us stronger; showcases what's unique in our areas.

Not only is FCM's work of national importance, but our work is internationally important.

The Chair thanked Mr. Karsten for his presentation and opened the floor to questions.

*Many questions raised regarding **.

Don Downe asked about phase one infrastructure and broadband.

Mr. Karsten advised that Phase 1 applications would be starting in October. He stressed it would be important to have a letter from the Congress in support of the applications. Mr. Casey suggested reaching out to MP's on infrastructure; funding is critical.

Mayor Mike Savage stated that communications with *(federal or provincial government?) are not what they should be regarding the fund information and requirements. We need to be at the table on all discussions.

Art Hipp from NBUM talked about guidelines percentages for project funding.

Craig Pollet. MNL.

From NFLD converged that large amount of approvals were result of backlogs from years past. NFLD stresses importance of being at table. As well ratios on funding in NFLD ranges from 10-30%, province 20% so municipalities pay more - not acceptable.

Keith Hunter - percentages of funding with merged communities should remain the same.

Mayor Clifford Lee stated that municipalities need to recognize that all projects will be approved based on "need" not "want" due to the limited monies available. He noted that water and sewer projects seem to take top priority with recent applications.

Bob Taylor supported Don Downe's proposal to write a letter on infrastructure funding communication.

Motion - Don Downe and Keith Hunter to go to feds, MPs, UNSM in support of infrastructure funding. Mayor Savage suggested discussion with province and UNSM about support of FCM position on funding percentages. Vote on motion for letter to feds.

4. MP BILL CASEY - GREETINGS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOCUS ON MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES/PROGRAMS

Mayor Mills introduced Bill Casey.

Mr. Casey expressed appreciation for the invitation to speak to at the Mayor's Congress.

Mr. Casey relayed that \$116 million for infrastructure was announced yesterday by the Federal Government.

The government offers support for rural communities, youth, and business. New program to come for Broadband expansion. Details will be announced. Details sketchy but it will be substantial.

A discussion was held on the importance of rural issues.

Mike Savage expressed his appreciation to the government on federal contributions towards federal infrastructure commitments.

Bill Casey expounded on the new attitude of the federal government and in particular Prime Minister Trudeau's Leadership capabilities, in addition to the organization skills of his team.

Don Downe talked about broadband and our involvement as municipal leaders and its implications. He asked how that would roll out.

Bill Casey suggested the Congress send a letter to the Federal government requesting that the Congress be involved in those discussions.

Dave Walker expressed concerns about derelict vessels and how important it is to get the feds to move on tabling legislation to remove these vessels not only for Bridgewater but all coastal communities.

Linda Gregory echoed Dave Walker's comments on vessels.

5. PUBLIC SECTOR TRANSFORMATION - WHAT IT MEANS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Bruce Peever of KPMG spoke to the congress about public sector transformation and what it means for Atlantic municipalities. He stated the municipalities need to rethink public service.

The case for change - think globally - consider megatrends - 9 trends to watch for

Mr. Peever spoke about demographics and urbanization and stated that by 2030, 60% of the world will live in cities and of that 60%, 80% will live in Africa and Asia.

It was noted that 1 million young people in India will enter workforce every month for the next 20 years.

For us, the change is dramatic decline in population in Atlantic Canada = program decreasing tax revenue. Government will not ignore rural areas hence leading to deficit spending.

Fundamental #1 increase revenues
Find a strategy to implement new user fee models

And determine what are the trust costs of our services?

#2 Decrease spending.

Any serious effort must confront the costs of labour in the broader public sector. New ways of public service delivery. Modernizing example- vendor gets paid in 2 days in Fredericton, NB. Discount on services for paying quickly. Digitization. These mean savings for efficient municipalities.

*Jeff Cantwell

Mayor Jeff Cantwell complimented Mr. Peever on his eye opening presentation and spoke of Stratford model.

Dave Walker - Spoke about people, bright people at municipal level. Plus working with our colleagues will get results.

Keith Hunter spoke on challenges on housing, lack of buyers, etc. Demographics confirm the presentation.

6. EVENT ATLANTIC SOCIETY - UPDATE ON CHARLOTTETOWN SUMMIT

Grant MacDonald spoke about the Event Atlantic Society. He stated that sport and event hosting is a great way to attract new visitors, build on brands, build social and cultural/ environmental impacts on a host region.

Sport tourism is a 5.2 billion a year business.

Event Atlantic provides speakers and topics to help communities pursue opportunities along with professional development for Atlantic Canadian municipalities.

Summit Outcomes - learning and networking.

Announcements - first general meeting of Event Atlantic Society, observer program, other partners coming in to learn.

New board announced. Chair Wayne Long of Charlottetown along with members from all provinces in Atlantic Canada will meet; next event March 8-10 Briar, St Johns NFLD with solid representation from areas and segments having interest. Summit rating at 90% success. 80% of this year's event plan to attend St Johns in March 2017. Discussion to center on:

Regional sharing on strategy calendar. Professional development. Supply chain. Consistency of member forum.

Who can help grow the sector.

Sports Association - local and provincial

Tourism - municipal, provincial, regional

Economic development

Facility operators

First Nations - engage, under represented.

Suggest - African NS involvement

Cliff Lee - talked about success of summit, impact on PEI. Elected champion - local support/culture champion

Mayor Savage complimented Event Atlantic on their work along with the importance of team approach.

Mr. MacDonald talked about FIFA and Pan Am events on the growth of the economy in Canada.

Mayor Dawn Arnold and Mayor David Walker talked about the merits of event planning and effects on our community. Important of volunteer base and efficiency which success will determine future opportunities.

Mr. MacDonald talked about importance of logging into a volunteer database. Volunteering tourism is an emerging trend where volunteers travel from all over Canada to help.

Event Atlantic can assist with securing equipment, volunteers and expertise to get the job done effectively.

Keith Hunter thanked Grant MacDonald and talked about success that Shediac has had this past summer that he believes was a direct result of listening to Event Atlantic's advice.

Mayor Taylor thanked Grant MacDonald for his presentation.

Reconvened at 1:30

7. DR. DAVID GRAY - DALHOUSIE-AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE CAMPUS

Mayor Bob Taylor introduced Dr. David Gray, of the Dalhousie AC Campus.

Dr. Gray knew of Nova Scotia Agricultural college that it was internationally known as a place of excellence. He proceeded to outline the evolution of agriculture of the past to the present with modern agriculture. Three challenges the world faces 1) food security; double food production by 2050, 2) access to fresh drinking water, 3) climate change.

Solutions to all three problems have their answers in agriculture. Largest employer sector in Canada.

3 areas of agriculture.

Plant health

Shellfish aqua culture

Apple peel - developing products to fight disease

Dr. Gray shared that most research intensive universities in Canada account for up to 33% of available research money. Much from industry funding. Results of research for example have increased revenue on blueberry production by 5.5 million in NS. Have reduced spray expense by 630 per hectare.

He further outlined worldwide academic opportunities and initiatives.

Dr. Gray talked about how the College is reaching out to students in high schools, 4-H programs, girl guides and more to change the perception of agriculture opportunities. Introducing agriculture sandboxes to create new opportunities and problem solving, collaboration among students, industry, academia.

Mayor Dawn Arnold had questions regarding food security and supply issues. Dr. Gray agreed it is a pressing issue that universities like Dal can drive the issue of food supply issues.

Keith Hunter questioned Dr. Gray on research. Striped bass and the growth of the species.

Mayor Stephanie Paulin on salmon. Problems in the Merimichi and water temperatures and disease among problems.

8. BUSINESS MINISTER MARK FUREY

Mayor Mills introduced Minister of Business and former Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mark Furey.

The Minister opened with greetings from the Province.

He outlined the state of the Province - one Nova Scotia report is the benchmark for where Nova Scotia is and indeed is the case for Atlantic Canada, population decline. Millions thrown at our region which did not produce results envisioned. There has to be a better model.

He outlined necessary restricting of government departments as a result of the One Nova Scotia Report. To reverse our former practices and charting the new course of action.

Minister Furey said fighting for available cash among government departments has to align with the priority of the government along with outcome agreements for Crown corporations. Cannot be all things to all people but create the environment for business to thrive by cutting red tape. Red tape reduction is a priority for Atlantic Premiers. Services Online - digital government - high speed internet is a must.

Of the changes happening, he cited the craft beer industry. They want to sell their product in cooperation in other words sell product in each other's markets.

The way government has changed doing business with online bundles for business start-up for variety of applications. Business has a question, submits, that question moves through departments to answer question. And then sent back to business inquiry. Save time. Another example is streamline issue of driver's licenses, NS, NB, PEI will save 10 million a year because of this one change. Many success stories.

The worst kept secret for business improvement? The secret - listen to business and work to solve the problem - less confrontational.

We still need a medium for business growth sectors that can apply for funding; example wine sector applying for funding to increase sector growth. Municipalities can apply to invest Nova Scotia. This also aligns with government priorities.

Example of opportunities to work with business. Announcement of 20 million to 60 million for start-ups for the ocean sector. 400 PhD's reside in our province. Ocean venture's hub - 300 million investment. Government investment plus industry investment will work better.

Plus importance of high speed internet is a priority.

Minister Furey thanked the Congress members for their service as elected officials and gave best wishes to those re-offering.

Mayor Clifford Lee stated that he was impressed with the new department of business. PEI still has departments fighting for money to the expense of municipal units and business missing out.

Reg Ritchie question on funding for projects. Funding with the feds and province and how it flows. Minister Fury feels funding has to be available to municipalities and service providers.

Mayor Mills thanked Mark Furey for his presentation.

9. CANADIAN AQUARIUM AND ZOO ASSOCIATION - MASSIMO BERGAMINI

Massimo Bergamini discussed changes to regulations since the last update in Sydney. He gave an overview of tragedies that took place that caused legislation to change. It took fatalities to make change. Changers are happening but operators faced with new legislation now move to areas where legislation is weak or non-existent.

Mr. Bergamini presented the chronological order of events from the Atlantic Mayors' Congress resolution that led to changes, and then noted that the problem is that the momentum for change has stalled. Mayor Angelhart-Paulin acknowledged a court case is starting and Campbellton will proceed with Bylaws to address issues of exotic pet ownership and handling.

Mr. Bergamini advised that the four Atlantic Provinces would be requested to prepare a unified approach to legislation regarding exotic animals in human care, especially small operators and how disease can spread.

On motion of Mayor Clifford Lee and Warden Linda Gregory, **New resolution has been proposed. Also that preamble speaks to the fact, that issue was dealt with three years ago and has not moved forward. Mayor Paulin cautioned that passing the resolution while court case is about to start.

Warden Linda Gregory suggested exotic animal care and bylaws should be a provincial or federal responsibility.

10. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2016 AGENDA

Friday: Regulation of exotic animals, zoos, aquariums.
Animal regular exotic
Jeff Cantwell - Reg Ritchie
Motion carried unanimously.
Reg moved.

Motion. Bob - David on next meeting in Moncton as quest of Mayor Dawn Arnold.

On motion of Warden Linda Gregory and Warden Reg Ritchie, for NB vice chair for next meeting to BC or Stephanie Anglehart-Paulin Campbellton. Motion carried.

11. MAYORS ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable - Order of speakers:

- Mayor Jeff Cantwell - Wolfville
- Art Slipp - UM New Brunswick
- Warden Linda Gregory - Municipality of Digby
- Mayor David Walker - Town of Bridgewater
- Tony Keats - Municipality Newfoundland Labrador
- Mayor John Brigante - Windsor
- Warden Reg Ritchie - Annapolis County
- Mayor Stephanie Anglehart-Paulin - Campbellton
- Mayor Dawn Arnold - Moncton
- Mayor Rowan Casely - Kensington
- Warden Keith Hunter - Cumberland County
- Betty MacDonald - Executive Director UNSM
- Mayor Bill Mills - Town of Truro
- Chair & Deputy Mayor Bruce MacDougall - Summerside
- Mayor Bob Taylor - Colchester County

Chair Bruce thanked members of the Congress who are not re-offering in the upcoming municipal elections for their service and participation in the government process.

12. PERENNIA INNOVATION CENTRE

Mayor Taylor welcomed Dr. Eric Albert from the Perennia Centre, who spoke to the Congress about innovation clusters.

Dr. Albert spoke on Canadian Research and Technology Parks, super clusters in key sectors.

Dr. Albert extended an invitation to all of the municipalities to arrange for a visit to the Centre if they were interested.

Bob thanked Dr. Albert - great presentation.

13. PLAN NEXT MEETING - SUMMERSIDE

The next meeting date was set for April in Summerside, PE.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Matt Kerrigan closed the meeting at 12:00pm.