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TO: Finance and Economic Development Committee

DESTINATAIRE : Comité des finances et du développement économique

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DATE: November 5, 2019

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FILE NUMBER: ACS2019-OCC-GEN-0010

SUBJECT: Report on 2019 Conference of the Association of Francophone Municipalities of Ontario (AFMO)

OBJET : Rapport du Congrès 2019 de l'Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to report to Committee on the highlights of the Association of Francophone Municipalities of Ontario Conference attended by Councillor Cloutier.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

The Francophone Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AFMO) was founded, in 1989, by Gisèle Lalonde, then Mayor of the City of Vanier. Her goal was to uphold and improve municipal services delivery and governance, in both French and English, in the regions of Ontario designated under the French Language Services Act of Ontario.

The City of Ottawa has been a member of this association for most of its existence. As per its Statutes and Regulations, two representatives must be named by the City of

Ottawa, one of which must be an elected official. In December of 2018, I was appointed as the Council representative to the AFMO, where I have served as Vice-President of the Board of Directors.

The 2019 Conference was held in the City of Greater Sudbury, Ontario, one of the AFMO's member cities, from September 25 to 27, 2019. Conference attendance included elected officials, municipal administrators, francophone organizations and leaders. The conference's theme "Power of the Past, Strength of the Future: Cultivating Diversity for Community Success" was designed to foster discussions between political representatives, municipal staff members, economic development agents and community stakeholders on topics that affect our municipalities.

CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

The conference had numerous workshops using various formats, many of which ran concurrently. Topics covered many subjects, namely emergency management planning, tourism and economic development, health and municipalities, employment law, achieving Francophone immigration success, youth councils of Canada, and serving the aging Francophone population.

Interesting workshops that were available included:

1. "Operation Compass: Let's Co-Create our AFMO!" by Mélanie Chevrier & Associates (Équipe M)
2. "Youth Councils of Canada and How to Best Use Them" by Kelsey Santarossa (municipal councillor, Town of Lakeshore and founder of the Youth Council Coalition of Canada)
3. "Sudbury, Welcoming Francophone Community", Christian Howald (Economic Society of Ontario) & Lynn Despatie (City of Greater Sudbury)
4. "FARFO and the Discussion Paper on the Francophone Elderly in Ontario", Gilles Fontaine (Fédération des aînés et des retraités francophones de l'Ontario)
5. "Jack of All Trades and Master of None: the need for a community protocol", Christian Howald (Economic Society of Ontario)

I attended and chaired AFMO's Annual General Meeting, where I continue to serve in the capacity of Vice-President. The discussion was centered on how the AFMO's situation has evolved in the last few years and its objectives and strategies to attain its five-year vision. Roger Sigouin, Mayor of Hearst, was re-elected as President.

The conference was also planned to coincide with the 44th Anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian Flag, which was celebrated on Franco-Ontarian Day, September 25th. Delegates from the conference attended an official flag-raising ceremony, which was held at the Université de Sudbury and a banquet dinner was organized by the ACFO du grand Sudbury, in honour of Franco-Ontarian Day.

The AFMO also held its annual banquet dinner on September 26th to celebrate its 30th Anniversary.

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Ontario Transportation Minister and Francophone Affairs Minister, delivered the keynote address on the final day of the conference.

The Conference was well organized, and topics discussed were relevant to the City of Ottawa, providing ideas on how the City can adapt to the changing demographics, while delivering services to the public. Additionally, strategies were presented on how municipalities and other levels of government can work together within their respective roles to complement each other and overcome current challenges in employment assistance services for new Canadians, minorities and linguistic groups.

The Conference was also an opportunity for the AFMO to look to its past, to assess where it is today and to begin to design the future. A special workshop was held where participants worked on shaping AFMO's long-term vision, drawing a roadmap for all of their communities.

CONCLUSION

This annual Conference was an opportunity for sharing knowledge and common experiences, while discussing solutions to some of the challenges facing municipalities. I would recommend attending this Conference yearly. The next conference will be in 2020 in the City of Cornwall.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Conference Program

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