

CHAIR REPORT, UP TO & INCLUDING June 5/2019

This report is presented to you as a method for you to know my activities as Chair since our last Board meeting. As always if there are any questions, please don't hesitate to bring them forward.

- Along with Directors Mernett, Massier & Richmond, and accompanied by Deputy CAO Alice Johnston, I attended the FCM convention in Quebec city. This convention set a new record for attendance, it was great to see so many local Govts. taking the time to attend this convention, especially as more than 40% were newly elected. As with all FCM's, a lot of the focus is on networking, touring the local area, and less on the resolution debates that take a lot of time at UBCM. This year however, there was considerable debate on the few resolutions presented to the Delegates. We had Political Keynote speeches from all 4 party leaders throughout the 4 day convention, and each of them spoke about hearing loud and clear, the request from Local Govt. leaders, on the need for increased and sustainable funding for local Govts other than the Gas Tax. Notwithstanding, it is of course an election year, and much of their speeches related to the upcoming election.
- Some of the sessions I attended included 5G in Canadian communities, energy recovery & the environment, Building vibrant rural economies, plus the two regional meetings for BC. The 2 tours that I attended, were a tour of the \$200 million, 3 year old Videotron centre, that was built in the hope of attracting back an NHL team to Quebec city, which has not materialized. This magnificent structure now hosts events, a Junior hockey team and world class concerts, and is a beautiful building looking almost like a flying saucer. The second tour was on the St. Lawrence river, and was hosted by CN, where we got to see some of the docks, as well as tourist sites, and enjoyed some incredible appetizers much to the envy of the other directors not on the tour. Fortunately the weather was phenomenal, and Director Massier and I enjoyed the whole trip sitting outside on the deck of the boat.

- FCM next year, is being held in Toronto and in Regina in 2021, and is once again in early June. If any of you are interested in attending, I would remind you that you need to apply early in the year to access your Initiative funds so that you can register as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo A. Wagner