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Federation President Calls on Political Parties To Focus on Strengthening Municipalities

The Federation of PEI Municipalities (FPEIM) is calling on all of PEI's political parties to make the strengthening of Island municipalities a key part of their 2015 election platforms.

"The future of our province is tied to the strength of municipalities," stated FPEIM President Bruce MacDougall. "More and more, Islanders are recognizing the essential role municipalities play in creating the conditions needed for economic growth and local prosperity."

"Modern municipal infrastructure and services are what make cities, towns and communities great places to live, while creating an environment for businesses to grow and prosper," the Federation President explained. "Strong municipal governments improve quality of life and help build local communities, each with its own identity. Municipalities are the only order of government dedicated solely to local planning, local challenges and local solutions".

According to MacDougall, "the municipal system in Prince Edward Island has fallen behind other provinces, and the gap is growing. The current municipal system is not sustainable and the provincial and municipal governments must work as partners to fix it."

"It is the long held position of FPEIM that for local governments to be strong and effective, the system must include a fair and predictable municipal revenue sharing framework with the province," he continued. "As well, there is a need for province-wide incorporation resulting in municipalities with a sufficient population and tax base to be sustainable."

"Our vision for Prince Edward Island is one where all Islanders live in strong vibrant municipalities," concluded MacDougall. "This vision is achievable and the Federation is committed to working with all political parties and the public to make it a reality."

The Federation of PEI Municipalities is a membership-based organization committed to representing a strong and unified voice for its membership and fostering effective, efficient and accountable municipal government in Prince Edward Island.

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