

UNAPPROVED SEMIANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016
Hosted by the City of Summerside
at Credit Union Place

1. REGISTRATION

Registration was held from 9:00 am - 9:30 am at the Credit Union Place in Summerside on Saturday, October 22, 2016. One hundred and nine delegates and guests registered for the meeting.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

President Bruce MacDougall called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. He introduced the head table: the Honourable Robert Mitchell, Minister of Communities, Land and Environment and Mayor Bill Martin, City of Summerside. He welcomed delegates and guests to the meeting. He introduced FPEIM Board members and staff. He then invited Mayor Bill Martin to welcome the delegates.

Mayor Bill Martin, City of Summerside, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He mentioned that the Federation of PEI Municipalities has played an important role in the development of the new Municipal Government Act and wished everyone a productive day.

President's Report

President MacDougall reported that municipal leaders have been saying for a long time that our municipal system in PEI needs a major overhaul. The report by Land and Local Governance Commissioner Ralph Thompson was a turning point. By working together as municipalities, in partnership with the Province, our goal of building strong, vibrant municipal governments Island-wide is achievable. To properly fulfill their role, municipalities need: fair and predictable revenue; province-wide municipal incorporation; and modern legislation.

The Federation first asked for a comprehensive review of municipal legislation in 2001. President MacDougall thanked the many staff and elected officials, both municipal and provincial, who worked hard to get us to the point of the new draft Municipal Government Act.

President MacDougall stated that there are many improvements over the current legislation, but the FPEIM Board is also recommending some important changes. The Province had intended to begin consultations earlier in the summer. Unfortunately, despite their genuine efforts, the Act and consultation documents

simply weren't ready and we were left with a very short consultation period. The Board believes that there would be value in giving councils and the Federation more time to review and consider the proposed Act. The Board of Directors has asked the Minister to extend the consultation period and delay adoption of the Act, but not beyond the 2017 spring session of the Legislative Assembly.

President MacDougall reported that following the 2015 provincial election, the Government of PEI committed to a fair and predictable revenue framework for municipal governments. The Department of Finance will be presenting a proposal to the members of the Revenue Sharing Steering Committee for discussion next week. President MacDougall expressed disappointment that municipalities were not directly involved in developing the draft framework over the past several months.

President MacDougall spoke about the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund and the Public Transit Infrastructure fund which is a bilateral agreement worth more than \$112 million in combined funding. The federal government is providing up to 50% of funding for the projects supported through these programs. The provincial government and municipalities provide the balance of funding.

President MacDougall also spoke briefly about a Toolkit that has been developed for FPEIM to assist municipalities as they look toward restructuring. He stated that FPEIM received an invitation from the Standing Committee on Communities, Land and Environment to express views on municipal amalgamation and annexation in the province. FPEIM will be making a presentation in November.

President MacDougall stated that municipalities will be counting on Minister Mitchell, as our champion within the provincial government to help build strong, vibrant municipal governments.

Minister Mitchell's Report

President MacDougall introduced Honourable Robert Mitchell, Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

The Honourable Robert Mitchell, Minister of Communities, Land and Environment, addressed the delegates and provided an update on some of the activities within his department. He stated that it has been busy the last six months, but we have come a long way since the FPEIM annual meeting in April. The consultations began on the Municipal Government Act in September, and Minister Mitchell stated that he is encouraged by the number of comments received by municipalities. Sixty-one municipalities have provided comments since early September.

Minister Mitchell stated his department is focussed on three top priorities:

- Land use planning – to update the Planning Act to include land use policies in the way the Handrahan Report recommended
- Municipal funding – working in a hub model with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Infrastructure to continue to work with municipalities to develop a funding model that is both stable and predictable
- Municipal governance – to introduce a new Municipal Government Act

He provided an update on the three priorities:

- Land use planning – in the Spring 2016 a bill was tabled to amend the Planning Act to enable regulations that implement land use policies and to update requirements for official plans and bylaws. The goal is to have this completed in Fall 2016 session.
- Municipal funding – Minister Mitchell stated he recognizes the importance of predictable and stable funding for the municipalities from the province. The provincial government has a critical role in addressing the challenges municipalities face. There will be more conversations about municipal funding in the near future.
- Municipal governance – The new act is a complex piece of work. Government remains committed to a modern municipal framework. Municipal Affairs staff is working hard to respond to all concerns. The Department appreciates all the feedback provided by both FPEIM and municipalities on the new Municipal Government Act. The new Municipal Government Act will not take effect immediately, but likely within the next year. They are going to continue to proceed with an amendment to the current act that was tabled in the Spring session of the Legislation to address some housekeeping issues, transition issues and a few items that have been requested for some time.

Minister Mitchell spoke about the government approach to restructuring which is to promote restructuring from the ground up to allow municipalities to make their own decisions on restructuring. The province will provide support and funding for growth studies.

Minister Mitchell made a commitment to work with Mayors/Chairs and councils to ensure that Island municipalities are strong and viable.

President MacDougall thanked Minister Mitchell for his remarks.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

It was moved, seconded and carried that the minutes from the 2016 FPEIM Annual General Meeting, held on April 25, 2016, in St. Peter's Bay, PEI be adopted as presented.

4. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mayor David MacDonald, Souris, Chair of the FPEIM Finance and Audit Committee presented the financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2015.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2016 be accepted as presented.

5. CHARLOTTETOWN YOUTH RETENTION INITIATIVE

President MacDougall introduced Zac Murphy and Alex Youland, members of the Youth Retention Advisory Board with the City of Charlottetown. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Youland reviewed a survey carried out, along with some discussions from focus groups on how to keep youth in Charlottetown. Some of the topics discussed in their surveys and focus groups were employment, housing, health and wellness, health and safety, environment, community engagement, entertainment and lifestyle, and arts and culture. They reviewed the recommendations from their final report.

6. TOOLKIT FOR MUNICIPAL RESTRUCTURING

President MacDougall introduced Dawn Binns, Insight Brand and Marketing Studio. Ms. Binns explained the approach taken to develop the toolkit and provided an overview of each section of the toolkit.

7. AFTER LUNCHEON ENTERTAINMENT

Denny King, Island storyteller, provided entertainment after lunch.

8. CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION STRATEGY

President MacDougall introduced Todd Dupuis, Executive Director, Environment, Department of Communities, Land and Environment. Mr. Dupuis talked about

greenhouse gas mitigation and reviewed the emissions profile for PEI. He also spoke about the implications of climate change on PEI. He mentioned that a Climate Change Secretariat would be developed to deal with mitigation and adaptation.

9. UPDATE ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT DEVELOPMENT

President MacDougall introduced Samantha Murphy, Manager of Municipal Affairs, Department of Communities, Land and Environment. Ms. Murphy gave an update the draft Municipal Government Act and an overview of the framework. She reviewed how municipalities will deal with transitions to comply with the new Act. She mentioned that the Department will be working on templates and models for bylaws. She also gave an overview of the recent consultations with municipalities on the new Municipal Government Act.

President Bruce MacDougall reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Municipal Government Act. Chris Brennan, Municipal Services Officer, FPEIM, facilitated round table discussions on the new PEI Municipal Government Act.

10. CLOSING REMARKS:

President MacDonald thanked everyone who helped to organize the 2016 FPEIM Semi-Annual Meeting. He presented a plaque to Councillor Frank Costa, Summerside, to thank Summerside for hosting and for their contributions to the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.