



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2017

FPEIM Celebrates 60th Anniversary

The Federation of PEI Municipalities held its 60th Annual Meeting on Monday April 24, 2017. The meeting was held at the Charlottetown Hotel; the same venue which hosted the founding meeting.

“Sixty years ago, a small group of forward-thinking municipal leaders came together because they believed that municipalities needed a more unified voice,” said FPEIM President Bruce MacDougall. “Six decades later, the importance of a strong and unified voice still brings us together.”

MacDougall noted that it had been an eventful year for PEI municipalities. A new Municipal Government Act was adopted in the fall of 2016 by the PEI Legislature. “This has been an outstanding example of governments working together,” he said. The Act is expected to be proclaimed by the fall of 2017 when the Regulations are completed. “The adoption of this new and modern Act represents a very important step forward,” MacDougall added while acknowledging that there “...will be challenges as we make the transition.”

MacDougall explained that the provincial government and municipalities have been working very hard to improve the municipal financial framework and, while there are still details to be worked out, we have made great progress.

MacDougall mentioned that a number of municipalities are interested in exploring restructuring, but taking those initial steps to get discussions underway can be difficult. “The Federation’s toolkit, Building for the Future: A Guide for Municipal Restructuring, can help those municipalities,” he said. According to MacDougall, “municipal boundaries are stuck in the past. The challenges and opportunities that municipal

governments face today have changed and many municipal councils recognize that they need to consider changing as well."

Other topics addressed at the meeting included a report on the Policing Landscape on PEI by RCMP Chief Superintendent Joanne Crampton, updates on the draft Building Code Act and Water Act that are before the spring sitting of the Legislature and addresses by Premier Wade MacLauchlan, Minister of Communities, Land and Environment Minister and Federation of Canadian Municipalities President Clark Somerville.

MacDougall concluded by thanking municipal leaders. "Few realize how much elected council members invest in their municipality," he said. "That commitment is making cities, towns and communities stronger and better, he added, "and strong municipalities are the foundation for a strong province."

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