



News Release

June 2, 2017 - The second annual Local Government Summit was held yesterday in Ottawa, in advance of a conference for provincial and territorial ministers of municipal affairs scheduled for July in Regina. Saskatchewan municipal association presidents Ray Orb (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) and Gordon Barnhart (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association) co-chaired the summit of municipal association presidents from Canadian provinces and territories.

Federation of PEI Municipalities President, Bruce MacDougall, joined his association colleagues across the country in discussions about the future of municipal governments. “Strong municipalities are the foundation for strong communities and a strong province,” said MacDougall. “Exchanging information and ideas with our counterparts from other provinces and territories benefits our members as the Federation continues to work with the province to address the challenges facing municipalities in PEI.”

The Summit reaffirmed three fundamental principles that foster strong relationships between provincial and municipal governments.

First, recognizing the role of local governments is essential. Several Canadian provinces are moving in this direction. Bills adopted in PEI, Quebec and New Brunswick are recent examples of progressive legislation in this regard.

Second, a genuine partnership between the municipal and provincial orders of government is important. This relationship must be based on an ongoing dialogue and a mutual desire to work through issues with a view to greater municipal autonomy.

Third, the rapidly evolving roles and responsibilities of today's municipalities require an in-depth review of municipal revenue sources. Currently available revenue sources are no longer appropriate for Canadian municipalities.

Presidents of the provincial and territorial associations concluded the meeting with a commitment to continue the dialogue on our common issues. They also agreed to undertake further work on the various sources of municipal income across the country to identify the best tools for community development.

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