

FPT Ministerial Report

Date: August 17, 2016

Title: Meeting of Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government. July 6-7, 2016 – Quebec City, Quebec.

Originating Department(s): Community and Government Services

Participants: Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government and their support staff / or delegated representatives. Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Communities, Amarjeet Sohi Attended as a guest the afternoon of July 6, 2016 and participated in a discussion on federal infrastructure programs.

Nunavut Position(s):

- Increased flexibility for timelines for project completion under infrastructure is required considering Nunavut's logistical and geographical challenges.
- Inclusion of initiatives such as clean diesel power generation projects as eligible criteria under "Green" infrastructure funding.
- Increased federal investment in social housing funding is required.
- Increased support of broadband development in Nunavut is essential to allow the Government of Nunavut to provide better services to residents of the Territory which would promote economic development.
- Waste management and recycling should be considered as eligible projects under Green funding.

Current situation:

- Consistent with the vast majority of Provinces and Territories, Nunavut is finalizing funding agreements on the New Build Canada Fund (NBCF) and Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF).
- Timelines are tight on some programs. For example, all projects with CWWF are expected to be completed within 3 years. Given that Nunavut relies on annual resupply by sealift and many communities receive only one ship per year, meeting those deadlines may be extremely challenging. The ability to properly plan and build these projects under such short timelines is extremely challenging when coupled with weather and a short construction season.
- Green Fund projects generally target clean energy projects such as solar, wind and hydro. Given Nunavut's relatively small population and that the population is spread over a huge geographical area, the economy of scales make capital-intensive alternative energy development unrealistic for the Territory at this time. Given that diesel generation will always be required to supply backup to communities Nunavut supports including clean diesel technology to replace aging infrastructure as an eligible criteria under the Green Fund.
- The underlying issue of the Territorial Housing Crisis is about supply; there is a lack of physical structures available to residents. The number of people in need of housing is three times the national average and overcrowding is a major concern.
- The Government of Nunavut operates its daily business on 92Mbps of Internet bandwidth which presents significant challenges for being able to run programs and deliver services to residents.
- Solid waste management including recycling and costs associated with either shipping out these items or building waste management facilities present challenges for all communities in Nunavut; it is important to note that each community is stand alone and requires independent primary and secondary infrastructure systems.

Next Steps:

- Continued participation in FPT working groups for infrastructure to advance Nunavut's needs under Phase II of NBCF and other infrastructure programs.

Attachments: [Agenda](#)
[Press Release](#)

AGENDA

MEETING OF PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Quebec City, Quebec – July 5-7, 2016

Château Frontenac

Pre-conference Activities

Tuesday, July 5	
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	PTOC Board Meeting (St-Louis 1-4 Room) PTOC Board members only
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Registration (Verchères)
3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Deputy Ministers' Meeting (Ballroom)
Evening social activity – open to all delegates and companions	
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception at the Château Frontenac (Rose Room)
7:00 p.m.	Opening Remarks by Minister Martin Coiteux

Conference Program – Day 1 (all day, plus evening social activity)

All sessions take place in the Ballroom unless specified.

Wednesday, July 6	
7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Conference Registration (Verchères)
8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.	Ministers' Breakfast (Rose room) Delegates' Breakfast (Bellevue Room)
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Opening Remarks by the Chair
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Introductions and Roundtable of Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief statement on progress with one or two issues in each province or territory – maximum 5 minutes per Minister
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Session 1: Modernization of Governance – Chair: Minister Martin Coiteux – Quebec <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow-up on a 2015 priority agreed upon by Ministers• Chair's opening remarks and session overview• Presentation of the dissolution approach in Nova Scotia by Minister Zach Churchill• Open discussion among Ministers
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	:
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Ministers' Luncheon (Rose room) Delegates' Luncheon (Bellevue room)
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Discussion to prepare the meeting with the Federal Minister
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Session 3: Discussion with Federal Minister Guest: The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Coffee Break
4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Press Conference of PT ministers with the Federal Minister
4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Review of Draft Communiqué

Conference Program – Day 2

Thursday, July 7	
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Ministers' Breakfast (Rose room) Delegates' Breakfast (Petit Frontenac room)
8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Review of Draft Communiqué
9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Session 4: potential priorities for the next 12 months
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Session 5: Presentation by Hazel Christy (Canadian Institute of Planners) and Donald Bonsant (Ordre des urbanistes du Québec) – <i>Shaping our Communities. Sustaining Canada's Future.</i>
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Review and Approval of Communiqué
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Passing of the Gavel to Saskatchewan and Closing Remarks
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Meeting moved the National Assembly
12:00 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Lunch at the Le Parlementaire restaurant
1:40 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Visit of the Parliament
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Session 6: In Camera Meeting - Ministers only (Johnson Room) Delegates travel to the Observatoire de la Capitale (Observatory)

Conferences

PRESS RELEASE – Provincial and territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government reaffirm their commitment to address municipal infrastructure challenges

Québec City, Québec – July 7, 2016 – Provincial and Territorial (P/T) Ministers Responsible for Local Government concluded their annual meeting in Québec City today to discuss the priorities of communities including infrastructure funding.

Local Government ministers met with the Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities to discuss the importance of sustainable infrastructure funding. P/T ministers were pleased to hear Minister Amarjeet Sohi's commitment to have infrastructure funding flow in a timely manner.

"Provincial and territorial governments are supporting municipalities in the delivery of quality infrastructure like roads, bridges, transit, water and wastewater facilities and recognize the importance of the Government of Canada's reinvestment in municipal infrastructure. As a group, we raised issues related to federal programs and we were happy to witness the federal minister's responsiveness and openness for flexibility in program design. This new era of collaboration between federal, provincial and territorial governments will help meet the infrastructure needs of our communities," said Martin Coiteux, Quebec's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy, chair of the Ministers Responsible for Local Government.

It was the first time that P/T Ministers Responsible for Local Government met as a group with Minister Sohi since his election. The discussion showed that the federal, provincial and territorial governments agree on the importance of flexible infrastructure funding that will meet the needs of Canadian communities. While saluting the Federal Government's commitment to increase infrastructure funding, P/T ministers also took the opportunity to provide recommendations on existing and future programs.

In addition to infrastructure, P/T ministers shared information on recent policies and legislative changes and discussed current issues in local finances and municipal governance. They also had the opportunity to hear presentations from the Presidents of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ordre des urbanistes du Québec about the importance of planning in building strong and healthy communities.

"These meetings provide an opportunity to hear from everyone, so we can improve services to our fellow citizens," said Martin Coiteux.

Finally, ministers identified common priorities for the year ahead. Ministers will continue their collaboration when they meet again in June 2017 in Regina, Saskatchewan.