

DATE OF MEETING DECEMBER 18, 2023

AUTHORED BY KAREN ROBERTSON, DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER

SUBJECT FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES RESOLUTIONS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To consider Councillor Manly's resolution regarding diversity protection and restoration funding for municipalities and forward to the Federation of Municipalities (FCM) for consideration at the 2024 FCM Annual Conference.

Recommendation

That Council provide direction with respect to the proposed Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolution.

BACKGROUND

During the 2023-NOV-20 Regular Council meeting, Staff advised Council of the upcoming deadline for resolutions to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for consideration at the 2024 FCM Annual Conference. The deadline to submit resolutions is January 8th, 2024, and background information, such as a Council report, should be submitted with the resolution.

Mayor and Council were then asked to email their suggestions to the Corporate Officer before December 13, 2023, for consideration at the December 18th Council Meeting. The following resolution was provided by Councillor Manly for consideration.

"WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments have committed to the protection of 30% of the land base by 2030 as part of the provincial, national and international commitments to protect biodiversity.

AND WHEREAS many municipalities contain sensitive ecosystems and species at risk within their boundaries that are held under private fee simple ownership.

AND WHEREAS in 1883, 8,000 sq kilometers of south-east Vancouver Island representing 20% of the island land base was granted to Robert Dunsmuir in exchange for the construction of the E&N Railway, and the E&N Land Grant has impacted Indigenous rights and title, community drinking watersheds, and the ability to protect and conserve biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call upon the Government of Canada to dedicate funds towards municipalities for the purchase of

lands containing sensitive ecosystems and species at risk within their boundaries as part of the 30% by 2030 commitments to protect biodiversity.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT on this 141st anniversary of the E&N Land Grant, the FCM call upon the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to identify areas within the E&N Land Grant as a priority for the protection and conservation of biodiversity for their 2030 targets, and engage with impacted First Nations, local governments and land owners in a process to protect and restore the biodiversity of the southeast region of Vancouver Island with a focus on community watershed catchment areas, riparian areas along fish-bearing rivers and streams, sensitive ecosystems and habitats, and culturally significant areas.”

OPTIONS

1. That Council confirm their endorsement of the following resolution and direct Staff to submit the resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for consideration at the 2024 FCM Annual Conference:

WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments have committed to the protection of 30% of the land base by 2030 as part of the provincial, national and international commitments to protect biodiversity.

AND WHEREAS many municipalities contain sensitive ecosystems and species at risk within their boundaries that are held under private fee simple ownership.

AND WHEREAS in 1883, 8,000 sq kilometers of south-east Vancouver Island representing 20% of the island land base was granted to Robert Dunsmuir in exchange for the construction of the E&N Railway, and the E&N Land Grant has impacted Indigenous rights and title, community drinking watersheds, and the ability to protect and conserve biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call upon the Government of Canada to dedicate funds towards municipalities for the purchase of lands containing sensitive ecosystems and species at risk within their boundaries as part of the 30% by 2030 commitments to protect biodiversity.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT on this 141st anniversary of the E&N Land Grant, the FCM call upon the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to identify areas within the E&N Land Grant as a priority for the protection and conservation of biodiversity for their 2030 targets, and engage with impacted First Nations, local governments and land owners in a process to protect and restore the biodiversity of the southeast region of Vancouver Island with a focus on community watershed catchment areas, riparian areas along fish-bearing rivers and streams, sensitive ecosystems and habitats, and culturally significant areas.

- The advantages of this option: Submitting this resolution gives Council the opportunity to influence the direction of the FCM's public policy and advocacy work.

- The disadvantages of this option: Resolutions are due January 8, 2024; therefore, there is limited time to prepare background information as part of the package to submit to FCM.
 - Financial Implications: None identified at this time.
2. That Council does not endorse the proposed Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolution as listed on the report dated 2023-DEC-18, titled “Federation of Canadian Municipalities Resolutions”.
- The advantages of this option: Staff will prioritize preparing the resolutions received for the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities.
 - The disadvantages of this option: Council will not submit any resolution to FCM for 2024.
 - Financial Implications: None identified at this time.
3. That Council provide alternate direction. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- Council was asked to submit any resolutions for FCM by December 13, 2023.
- Councillor Manly put forward a resolution for consideration regarding diversity protection and restoration funding for municipalities.
- The deadline to submit resolutions is January 8, 2024, and all resolutions must be endorsed by Council.

Submitted by:

Karen Robertson
Deputy Corporate Officer |

Concurrence by:

Dale Lindsay
Chief Administrative Officer |