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Item No. 15.1.3
Halifax Regional Council
October 17, 2023

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 10, 2023

SUBJECT: Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Annual Conference & Trade Show bid

ORIGIN

Staff initiated Recommendation Report to Halifax Regional Municipality Regional Council.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Business and industrial development 70 (b) publicize the advantages of the Municipality or a part of the Municipality and the surrounding areas as a location for the establishment and expansion of institutions, industries and business.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council submit a request to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for the Halifax Regional Municipality to host the annual conference in 2027.

BACKGROUND

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has been the national voice of municipal government since 1901. FCM represents the interests of municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction. Members include Canada's largest cities, small urban and rural communities, and 18 provincial and territorial municipal associations.

DISCUSSION

Each year in early June, FCM holds its Annual Conference and Trade Show. The event attracts approximately 2,000 delegates, 500 companions, over 600 exhibitor staff (private sector and government departments), the most senior federal government elected officials, and opinion makers from across Canada to the Host City each year. The event provides the opportunity for municipal leaders to learn from colleagues and experts, share ideas and participate in local tours that showcase innovation in responding to local challenges that are applicable across Canada. The FCM seeks to identify host cities for its annual

conference and trade show 6 years in advance of the event.

Staff is recommending that HRM, in collaboration with Discover Halifax, submit a bid to host the 2027 Annual Conference and Trade Show for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The 2018 FCM's Annual Conference and Trade Show was hosted in Halifax and welcomed more than 2,000 municipal delegates and nearly 3,500 participants overall, including companions, trade show exhibitors and special guests. This number exceeded Halifax's record-breaking numbers from its previous hosted trade show in Halifax in 2011. There were 7,015 hotel rooms sold overall, with 1,104 booked prior to the conference start and 134 booked following the conference.

Request for proposals for upcoming FCM conference and trade show hosting is due by October 27, 2023.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council could choose to not enter a bid to obtain upcoming hosting opportunities for the FCM conference and trade show.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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