



E-NEWS BULLETIN

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NOTE: If you are using your cell phone to view the E-News Bulletin: when you've completed reading an article, you will need to scroll to the bottom of the page, and select the next article of interest.

In this issue:

- [President's Activities](#)
- [UNSM Board Report—May 10, 2017](#)
 - **FCM/Vietnam, Cape Breton Community Development Project** - The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, the Cape Breton Partnership and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have agreed to establish a formal relationship to support the implementation of the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation. The Partnerships for Municipal Innovation in Local Economic Development Project (PMI-LED) seeks to increase sustainable economic growth at the local level by strengthening the capacity of municipal governments in Mali, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bolivia, and Nicaragua. The Board approved an MOU between FCM, the Cape Breton Partnership and UNSM to undertake the above project. The first mission to Vietnam will take place during the end of June 2017. Funding is provided through FCM

- **Board Evaluation Survey** - The Board completed a board evaluation survey. Results will be compiled and assessed by Town of Windsor CAO Louis Coutinho. Results will be shared with the Board at their June meeting.
- **Provincial Election Strategy** - The Board agreed to send out a media release highlighting UNSM's provincial election strategy including the three candidates presenting at the spring workshop. This was sent out during the UNSM Spring Workshop.
- **Regional Meeting Outcomes** - Proposed resolutions coming out of the regional meetings were shared with the board. These included:
 - REN Improvements—to strengthen and ensure success of RENS in order to improve development opportunities in all regions
 - Better Utilization and Taxation of Agricultural Land
 - Mechanisms to encourage more regional planning
 - Rural High Speed Internet
 - Doctor Shortage and Recruitment
 - Public Transit - making it easier for municipalities to create an inter-municipal public transit system without having to go through the Utility and Review Board
 - Forestry - promoting sustainable management practices
 - Senior Safety Program - establishing guaranteed long-term provincial funding over five years
 - Affordable Housing
 - Tourism strategy for Northumberland Shore - link to Regional Enterprise Networks
 - Rural Roads
 - Improved Consultation with Municipalities when Designating Protected Areas - both Land and Marine
 - Improved Provincial and Municipal Funding to Support Public Libraries
 - Improved Access to Building Inspectors

A series of follow-up regional meetings will be held to prepare the resolutions which will be submitted to the UNSM Executive for consideration.

- **Rebranding Exercise** - It was suggested that the board start focussing on a rebranding exercise as part of its communications/engagement strategy. This would include modernizing the website and conducting a member profile survey.

- [UNSM Board Report—June 16, 2017](#)

- **PVSC Governance Review** - The Board agreed to prepare a response to the proposed PVSC governance change recommendations.
- **Resolutions Process** - The Board agreed to amend the current UNSM Resolutions process as follows:
 - That the UNSM Executive not have the authority to submit resolutions since the same group is serving as the Resolutions Committee. The Board would still have the authority to submit resolutions.
 - That the timelines be changed to accommodate holding two regional meeting sessions to finalize resolutions. Resolutions would be forwarded to the UNSM office within 30 days of the AGM rather than 60. All approved resolutions would be forwarded to municipalities within 14 days of the AGM rather than 30 days.
 - That resolutions not supported by the UNSM Executive still be included in an appendix to the resolutions report.
 - That a research template be included as an appendix to the resolutions document. The research template would include the following headings: *outline the issue, provide relevant background information, outline how the issue is currently impacting municipalities and/or any potential impacts, outline proposed solution(s) to resolve the issue, and provide any other steps as appropriate to enhance the success of the resolution which could include engaging other stakeholder groups or further research*
- **Feedback on UNSM Strategic Directions** - The Board agreed to amend one of the strategic directions to reflect UNSM would serve as a resource on municipal matters rather than an expert. Other suggestions made by members are being considered. As a follow-up from the regional meetings, the UNSM Board agreed to develop an electronic survey to gather additional information from the membership regarding a variety of topics including when to hold conferences, conference structure, conference fees, membership dues, how to prioritizing resolutions, regional meetings, etc.
- **2017 Resolutions** - UNSM staff will continue working with the membership to further develop the proposed resolutions from the regional meetings. Follow up regional meetings will be held in September and October:
- **UNSM Elections Policy Amendment** - The UNSM Board agreed to amend the UNSM Elections Policy requiring any eligible member running for the positions of President or Vice President to submit their nomination letter at least 15 days in advance of the nomination report presented to the membership. This is similar to FCM's approach. The current policy enables a candidate to submit their nomination just prior to the start of the nomination committee report presentation. The change allows those running for a position to properly prepare for an election.

- **UNSM Spring Workshop 2018** - The UNSM Spring Workshop will be held in the Town of Yarmouth in 2018.
 - **Rebranding Strategy** - The Board agreed to issue an RFP on a Rebranding Strategy that will involve the following components: research phase where the membership, board and staff are surveyed, name change options, logo development and proposed tag lines.
 - **Municipal Cannabis Working Group** - The Board agreed to work with AMANS, RCMP, and Municipal Police Forces to form a Municipal Cannabis Working Group which will produce a series of recommendations to be presented to the Province for consideration.
 - **Partnership Framework** - The UNSM Executive Director is working with Municipal Affairs Deputy Minister and AMANS to develop a workplan for the Partnership Framework.
 - **Caucus Updates** - The Regional Caucus will be proposing a meeting in CBRM during the third week in September.
- [Upcoming Workshops/Events](#)
 - **Regional meetings in September/October to discuss upcoming resolutions. Tentative dates are September 8, September 22 and October 6.** Locations are yet to be determined, and anyone can attend the one most convenient for them.
 - **Sept. 21, 2017** - Supporting Successful Meetings with Eli Mina (preparing minutes, agendas and resolutions; advising on rules of order) For more information and to register on-line visit: <http://www.elimina.com/training/training-scheduled-halifax.html>.
 - **Sept 22, 2017** - "We've Got to Stop Meeting Like This" with Eli Mina (demystifying the rules of order, effective meetings and decision making). For more information and to register on-line visit: <http://www.elimina.com/training/training-scheduled-halifax.html>.
 - **September 26 - 29** - AMANS Fall Conference - Truro Holiday Inn
 - **November 6-10** - UNSM Fall Conference - Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax
 - [Provincial Issues](#)
 - *Accessibility Act*
 - Canadian Free Trade, Effective July 1, 2017
 - [Federal Issues](#)
 - Abandoned Boats
 - Enabling Accessibility Fund—Applications are due July 26th
 - [FCM](#)

- Poverty Reduction
- Apply by August 1st for FCM's Green Municipal Fund for Environmental Capital Projects

- [Article from Eli Mina, Board Effectiveness Consultant and Registered Parliamentarian](#)
 - “Was This an Unadvertised Meeting”

- [Other Announcements](#)
 - Louis Coutinho Awarded Lieutenant Governor's 2016 Medal of Excellence in Public Administration

- [Obituaries](#)



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