



**Speaking Notes for**  
**FCM 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Brad Woodside**  
**Mayor, City of Fredericton**  
**to the**  
**Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2013**  
**May 15, 2013**  
**Kampala, Uganda**

Thank you so much for that kind introduction. Hello, ladies and gentlemen! It's great to be here with you today.

Your participation here at this meeting is a sign of your commitment to providing strong local government and helping your citizens enjoy a better quality of life. On behalf of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, I applaud you!

Before going further, I want to recognize members of our delegation who are here today. First, please welcome Councillor Michael Thompson from Toronto, Canada.



Michael is the governance representative for FCM's Caribbean Local Economic Development program, which we call CARILED. It focuses on local economic development in a number of Caribbean countries. Michael will lead a session at 11 a.m. tomorrow, on Partnerships for Development in Local Economic Development. I hope you will be able to attend.

Also here today are representatives from CARILED and also our Municipal Partners for Economic Development Program, which is active in Latin America, Asia and here in Africa. Among our delegation is the Honourable Noel Arscott, Minister of Local Government in Jamaica. Welcome, Minister!

We are here today to discuss developmental local government, something we not only want, but we want to do better. I believe we're all aware that there are policy, institutional and implementation challenges that must be overcome to ensure that local government meets the needs of local communities. For us as local government to do what we are best qualified to do, we need to operate in a clear legal and regulatory framework, we need to have access to finances, we need to have good personnel and the capacity to engage our citizens.

Today I would like to discuss our experience in Canada in dealing with these challenges. I will focus on what we do at the national level to support our municipalities in Canada. You will hear how the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, or FCM, supports our member municipalities so that they can build strong communities and ensure their citizens enjoy the best possible quality of life.



I will also talk about the projects we are participating in with communities overseas, so you can understand our approach to local economic development initiatives on a global basis.

Let me tell you a bit about FCM ... we are the national voice of Canadian municipalities and represent about 90 per cent of Canada's population. We have about 2,000 members, including big cities, smaller urban centres and rural and remote communities.

FCM promotes the interests of all Canadian communities to our national government on policy and program matters that fall within the jurisdiction of our national government in Ottawa – such as infrastructure, policing, housing and the environment.

We are successful because we listen to our members to understand their challenges, and we work with them to build a united position on how to overcome these challenges. And since we are united, we speak with one voice that influences decisions by our national government that impact communities across Canada.

At FCM, we recognize the importance of partnerships in helping us to achieve our objectives for our members.

As a non-partisan organization, we maintain partnerships with many groups and at many levels, but the key one that we have nurtured is with our national government. We are working together to address infrastructure, housing and other issues, and I'd like to point out a few tangible examples of our work together.



First, our national government, in response to FCM's advocacy, has created funding programs to support much-needed municipal infrastructure development. These cost-shared programs include investments from other orders of government – provincial, territorial and municipal – and have ranged from the Building Canada Fund to an Economic Action Plan devised to help support infrastructure development while protecting our national and local economies from the effects of the global financial crisis that erupted in 2008.

Under Canada's Constitution, municipalities are the responsibility of provincial governments. So funding flows from our national government through to provincial or territorial governments and then to municipalities.

Our national government has also established the Gas Tax Fund as a permanent mechanism to invest in local infrastructure. It re-directs a portion of federal taxes collected from gasoline sales back to municipal governments. In addition, the government has endowed FCM with a \$550-million funding pool to support sustainable development at the municipal level.

Recently, there have been important new gains for local governments in Canada as a result of our partnership with the national government. In March, the government tabled its Budget 2013 and announced that the Gas Tax Fund would be indexed for inflation, ensuring it would maintain its buying power.

The budget also extended the Building Canada Fund and affordable housing programs. These extended programs, along with the Gas Tax Fund index, will provide an additional \$47 billion to



local governments in Canada over the next 10 years. Where I come from, Fredericton, New Brunswick, our metropolitan area will receive an additional \$27 million over 20 years.

Overall, our partnership with our national government has resulted in a significant increase in investment in municipalities. In fact, annual investments in municipalities by our national government has jumped from \$123 million in 2003 to \$4.5 billion today – a 38-fold increase!

One point I must mention is that our partnership with our national government isn't confined to securing funding. We also want to make sure these programs work well for our member municipalities. So I'm happy to say that the government recently invited FCM to help design the new infrastructure funding programs.

With this seat at the table, we will set our sights on making sure programs reduce duplication and red tape, so that money flows quicker and more efficiently to applicant communities, to better meet their needs.

You've heard about the partnership that we have built with our national government in Canada. I will now focus on the partnerships we have created with many local governments in other countries thanks to our international programs, mostly funded by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Since 1987, FCM has been an active partner in strengthening the effectiveness and focus of Canada's international aid and in getting results at the municipal level in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.



Our programming has focused on enhancing municipal services, improving public participation and local governance, getting more women involved in decision-making, and more recently, building capacity on sustainable local economic development and disaster relief.

Through CARILED, our newest international program, we have witnessed first-hand the great opportunities and equally daunting challenges faced by Caribbean local government authorities striving to create vibrant and viable communities.

Job growth in the Caribbean region is concentrated in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. CARILED is supporting local government authorities as they encourage these businesses, attract new local economic development ventures, and put in place services that meet the needs of entrepreneurs.

We have identified demonstration sites and we conducted baseline research in communities in seven initial countries of the Caribbean. This is done with Canadian municipal experts from several municipalities in Canada working in partnership with experts from Caribbean municipalities to map out business niches and needs. This is also done with CLGF, the Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers (CFLGM) and the Caribbean Association of Local Government Associations (CALGA) who are all partners with FCM in CARILED.

As you see, success with CARILED, as well all of our other international programs, hinges on embracing a partnership model, much like the one we have in Canada involving municipalities and our national government.



This brings me to how we can focus on success here at this conference. And it really is quite simple – it's by talking with one another and forging relationships that lead to partnerships. For local government representatives who are here, I urge you to connect with as many people as you can while you are here, learn from others and be proactive in seeking information and resources that your communities can use to build their capacity and make real progress toward developmental local government.

For national government representatives in our audience, it starts with listening to your local government counterparts and being open to partnerships among various orders of government.

In Canada, it has taken time and effort to build a partnership between the municipal sector and the national government, but we are seeing great results from our work together. Similarly, I encourage you to work side by side, and this conference is a tremendous place to start or continue the dialogue that will bring you together and build partnerships for developmental local government.

Good luck!