

### **Committee Members:**

- Councillor Pat MacLellan, Rural Municipality of Miscouche (Chair)
  - Mayor Roger Gallant, Rural Municipality of Abram-Village
  - Councillor Gail MacDonald, Town of Stratford
  - Councillor Bruce MacDougall, City of Summerside, President (non-voting, ex-officio)
  - John Dewey, Executive Director (non-voting, ex-officio)
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The City of Charlottetown submitted four resolutions to FPEIM, - SA19-01 – Gas Tax Funding Amendment, SA19-02 – Recruitment of Family Physicians, SA19-03 – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Amendment, and SA19-04 – Employment Insurance Economic Region.

The Resolutions Committee met on June 19, 2019 to review the resolutions received and make recommendations to the Board. The Resolutions Committee recommended that the resolution SA19-01 – Gas Tax Funding Amendment, and SA19-02 – Recruitment of Family Physicians be reviewed by the Board at the meeting scheduled for June 27, 2019.

Section 3.3 of the Resolutions Policy provides for the Resolutions Committee to amend resolutions submitted by the member municipalities; however, any amendment must not alter the intent of the resolution. The Resolutions Committee recommended amendments to SA19-01 – Gas Tax Funding Amendment. The amended resolution is attached. The committee did not recommend any amendments to SA19-02 – Recruitment of Family Physicians.

The Board met on June 27, 2019. They agreed with the amendments and recommendation by the Resolutions Committee on SA19-01 – Gas Tax Fund – Stacking. The Board also agreed with the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee on SA19.02 – Recruitment of Family Physicians.

The Resolutions Committee met on August 22, 2019, to discuss the resolutions SA19-03 – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Amendment and SA19-04 – Employment Insurance Economic Region. The Resolutions Committee made recommendations on the two resolutions and stated that they be reviewed by the FPEIM Board on September 5, 2019.

The Board met on September 5, 2019. They agreed with the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee on both resolutions SA19-03 – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Amendment and SA19-04 – Employment Insurance Economic Region.

**SA19-01 - Gas Tax Fund - Stacking**

**Whereas**, the Gas Tax Fund (GTF) was designed to leverage the strength of each level of government; and

**Whereas**, the GTF recognizes the diversity of Canadian provinces, territories, regions, and communities and the inherent need for a flexible approach to program delivery; and

**Whereas**, the GTF provides predictable, long term funding for communities, where communities choose projects locally and prioritize them according to their needs; and

**Whereas**, the GTF is administered via an open and transparent governance process which recognizes and communicates Canada's contribution to communities' infrastructure priorities and includes regular program evaluations and progress reporting to Canadians; and

**Whereas** the Canadian government must recognize that the financial availability and affordability of municipalities differ across the Country; and

**Whereas**, there is a need to recognize that financial disparity.

**Be it therefore resolved;**

That the Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities (FPEIM) support the GTF being able to be used towards the Municipality's share of other Federal Infrastructure Programs such as the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP); and

**Be it further resolved;** that the FPEIM request that the Federal Government to allow for stacking of the GTF Program with other Federal Government funding; and

**Be it further resolved;** that the FPEIM seek the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for this initiative.

**Submitted by:** City of Charlottetown

**Overview and Assessment**

The above resolution calls for municipalities to be permitted to combine, or stack, Gas Tax Funds with other federal programs, including the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, to increase the overall federal share of the cost of a project. By stacking programs, the municipality is able to decrease its share of the cost of a project.

Both FPEIM and FCM have advocated for infrastructure programs that recognizes the limited financial capacity of municipalities relative to the federal and provincial governments. Advocacy has included calling for programs to allow stacking.

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program agreement sets federal funding contribution limits under the program and specifies that funding from all federal sources cannot exceed those limits. This prevents the use of the Gas Tax Fund to increase the federal share beyond the maximum share established under the program. Most ICIP projects are limited to a 40 percent federal contribution. However, the Government of Canada increased the federal contribution to forty percent for most municipal projects, compared to a one-third contribution under previous cost-shared infrastructure programs. In addition, it required a minimum provincial contribution of one-third. These positive changes were made by the federal government in recognition of the limited financial capacity of municipal governments.

Each province and territory has entered into a ten-year bilateral agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. To achieve the intent of the resolution, the ICIP agreements would require an amendment to increase the maximum federal contribution from all sources.

The GTF agreement states that the Fund *is not intended to replace or displace existing sources of funding for Local Government tangible capital expenditures*; but it does not contain a specific provision to prevent stacking.

The resolution is consistent with previous advocacy by FPEIM. A similar resolution from the City of Charlottetown was approved by the Atlantic Mayors Congress.

### **Categorization of Resolution**

The matter addressed by the resolution falls under Category A: Resolutions on issues that are the direct responsibility or concern of Prince Edward Island municipalities, and that fall within the jurisdiction of the provincial or federal governments.

**Recommendation of FPEIM Resolutions Committee:** Category A, Concurrence and that the resolution be brought forward for consideration at the semiannual meeting.

**Recommendation of FPEIM Board:** Category A, Concurrence and that the resolution be brought forward for consideration at the semiannual meeting.

**SA19-02 - Recruitment of Family Physicians**

**Whereas**, more than 13,000 Islanders have no family physician;

**Whereas**, the shortage of family physicians increases wait times, delayed diagnosis and treatment with potential further patient suffering and health risk; and

**Whereas**, physician shortage and associated extended wait times result in a measurable loss of income and productivity adversely affecting the Island economy; and

**Whereas**, a recent survey by the Medical Society of Prince Edward Island indicated that 56% of practicing Island physicians are planning to reduce or leave their practice over the coming five years; and

**Whereas**, the University of Prince Edward Island has a proven record of success in the development of the Faculties of Nursing, Engineering and the Atlantic Veterinary College,

**Therefore, be it resolved that**, the City of Charlottetown appeals to the Government of Prince Edward Island to initiate the following:

1. A facilitated Physician Recruitment and Retention program.
2. Immediate doubling, and later tripling of Family Physician Residency Positions.
3. Planning and negotiations for a Medical Faculty at the University of Prince Edward Island.

**Submitted by:** City of Charlottetown

### Overview and Assessment

The above resolution calls for on Government of Prince Edward Island to take specific actions to address the shortage of family physicians. The City of Charlottetown has asked for the FPEIM Board of Directors to support the resolution.

Recruiting family physicians is not a municipal responsibility; however, municipal leaders recognize the negative impacts of the doctor shortage on residents, as well as the indirect impacts on communities and neighbourhoods. As a result, municipal governments are increasingly taking steps to support physician recruitment. During televised leaders debate for 2019 provincial election, leaders suggested that municipalities have a role to play in recruiting doctors. Addressing the shortage of family physicians would benefit municipalities and their residents.

### Categorization of Resolution

The matter addressed by the resolution falls under Category A: Resolutions on issues that are the direct responsibility or concern of Prince Edward Island municipalities, and that fall within the jurisdiction of the provincial or federal governments.

**Recommendation of the FPEIM Resolutions Committee:** Category A, Concurrence and that the resolution be addressed by the board of directors.

**Recommendation of the FPEIM Board:** Category A, Concurrence and that the resolution be addressed by the board of directors.

**SA19-03 – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Amendment**

**Whereas;** The ICIP will create long-term economic growth, build inclusive, sustainable communities and support a low carbon, green economy; and

**Whereas;** The Community, Culture and Recreation Stream will focus on projects that improve citizen’s access to and quality of cultural, recreational and community spaces; and

**Whereas;** A professional or semi-professional sport facility that is primarily a commercial operation, such as those that serve major junior hockey leagues is excluded from funding under the ICIP;

**Be it therefore resolved;**

That the Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities (FPEIM) support that municipalities should be able to determine their community, culture and recreational needs and that those needs be eligible for funding under the ICIP inclusive of being able to be used for the purposes of semi-professional sport; and

**Be it further resolved;**

that the FPEIM request that the Federal Government amend the ICIP Program to allow for semi-professional sport facilities to be funded and that the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is pursued to support this initiative.

**Submitted by:** City of Charlottetown

### Overview and Assessment

The ten-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) agreements between the federal government and the provincial/territorial governments specify that a *professional or semi-professional sport facility that is primarily a commercial operation, such as those that serve major junior hockey leagues*, is ineligible for funding. The Gas Tax Fund (GTF) agreements also explicitly state that *facilities, including arenas, which would be used as the home of professional sports teams or major junior hockey teams*, are ineligible for funding.

The Government of Canada has committed approximately \$29 million over 10 years for Prince Edward Island under the community, culture and recreation infrastructure stream of the ICIP. The Government of Canada funds up to 40 percent of municipal projects under this stream, which translates to about \$72.5 million in capital projects for PEI over the life of the program when provincial and municipal investments are taken into account.

The resolution calls for the ICIP to be amended to allow for semi-professional sport facilities to be funded under the program. The resolution relates to a matter that directly impacts municipal governments. A similar resolution from the City of Charlottetown was approved by the Atlantic Mayors Congress.

Both FPEIM and FCM have advocated for broadening the types of infrastructure that are eligible for funding under federal infrastructure programs; however, neither FPEIM nor FCM have taken a position specifically related to the eligibility of semi-professional sport facilities.

The budget for the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure stream of the ICIP was based on a program that does not fund semi-professional sport facilities. Unfortunately, the funds allocated to this stream of the program are inadequate to address the high cost of constructing those types of facilities. Other options for addressing this gap in funding eligibility include:

- calling for a separate program for municipal facilities that are home to semi-professional sport teams; and
- expanding the types of infrastructure that are eligible for funding under the GTF agreement.

### Categorization of Resolution

The matter addressed by the resolution falls under Category A: Resolutions on issues that are the direct responsibility or concern of Prince Edward Island municipalities, and that fall within the jurisdiction of the provincial or federal governments.

**Recommendation by the FPEIM Resolutions Committee:** Category A, non-concurrence.

**Recommendation by the FPEIM Board:** Category A, non-concurrence.

**SA19-04 – Employment Insurance Economic Region**

**WHEREAS** Prince Edward Island was intact as one Region when Economic Regions were first created through the Employment Insurance Act and Regulations; and

**WHEREAS** the population of the entire Province of PEI is less than many of the Economic Regions created throughout the Country; and

**WHEREAS** the geographic area of the entire Province of PEI is less than over half the Economic Regions created throughout the Country; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Charlottetown previously noted its displeasure in the unfairness in the application of the Federal Legislature which was previously noted in the resolution of March 10, 2014;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of Charlottetown restate and reaffirm its opposition to the 2014 changes to the EI program for the Charlottetown area, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Charlottetown City Council Urge the Hon. Wayne Easter, the Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, MP Sean Casey, MP Robert Morrissey, Senator Percy Downe, Senator Mike Duffy, Senator Diane Griffin and Senator Brian Francis PEI to stress the importance of fairness and equity and put pressure on the Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and the Government of Canada to reinstate the Province of PEI as one Economic Region as it pertains to the Employment Insurance Act and Regulations and forward to the FPEIM and the FCM for support.

**Submitted by:** City of Charlottetown

**Categorization of Resolution**

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Changing EI Economic Regions does not meet the requirement of a category A resolution, which must be on an issue that is the direct responsibility or concern of Prince Edward Island municipalities. Category B resolutions deal with municipal issues of primarily local concern and category C resolutions deal with non-municipal matters. Category B and C resolutions are sent to member municipalities for information purposes at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual or semi-annual meeting.

**Recommendation of the FPEIM Resolutions Committee:** Category C, for information only.

**Recommendation of the FPEIM Board:** Category C, for information only.