I attended FCM 2024 from June 6th to 9th in Calgary, Alberta. Consisting of over 3100 delegates from municipalities all over Canada, this conference allowed for sharing of how various communities are dealing with many similar issues in varied and unique ways. I focused mainly on housing and the various ways it is approached in other municipalities.

On July 6th we started with an orientation to the conference followed by an afternoon tour titled Revitalizing Calgary's Downtown: The Vital Role of Housing. This eye opening tour showed us 3 separate housing facilities in the downtown run on three very different models.

The first was Calgary's first office tower to residential conversion completed by non-profit developers Home Space and run by Inn From the Cold, a family shelter operator. The building consisted of everything from emergency shelter to affordable housing and everything in between with multiple operators occupying various floors. The non-profit development of this building was very insightful as building, renovating and running buildings are skill sets many non-profits do not have the full ability to manage on their own.

The second building is unique in that it is owned by Calgary Housing Company (City of Calgary) that provides safe and affordable housing solutions for low- and moderate- income Calgarians in need of non-market rental housing. Carya Society of Calgary occupies and runs the first two floors that they run as a community hub and kitchen space. Upstairs are a 163 units of mixed market housing providing the financial stability for the building to be sustainable in the long term.

The last building was the Salvation Army men's shelter. This facilities was similar to the facility in Yellowknife but had some unique differences. They do not have a zero tolerance policy but instead empower and train staff extensively on de-escalation and mental health supports to help their clients navigate their entry into housing.

July 7th saw the launch of FCM's Municipal Growth Framework focused on advocating the federal government for much needed infrastructure support to meet the housing challenges we are facing. Multiple political keynotes showed the various ways the federal political parties look at supporting communities. The afternoon workshops included sustainable land use planning and community tourism strategies.

July 8th saw multiple political keynotes followed by a session on Rural Resiliency and digital divide in rural communities. Of note was that many of the ideas presented require well supported road and power networks. Seeing how far we are behind the baseline of most other communities was sobering. Further sessions focused on Asset Management and community adaptation to climate risk.

The last day, July 9th, consisted mainly of the FCM AGM where motions were voted on and presentations from candidates for Third Vice President for FCM Board of Directors were heard then voted on. We closed out the day with a Territorial Members Meeting where representatives from all three territories got to share the unique struggles and opportunities.

CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE - EXPENSE CLAIM

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