February 3, 2010

Please distribute to all Members of Council

MEMBERS’ ADVISORY

FCM PROPOSES MUNICIPAL RECONSTRUCTION RESPONSE FOR HAITI TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FCM has officially proposed to the Government of Canada a broad-based national municipal reconstruction response for Haiti, in close collaboration with the city of Montreal and the Union des municipalités du Québec, as well as in coordination with the Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick, the Fédération québécoise des municipalités, and other Canadian big cities, communities, and provincial and territorial associations.

Municipalities of all sizes in each region of the country continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Haiti. FCM is advised on a daily basis of decisions by councils from Vancouver to Montreal to St. John’s who have expressed their commitment to contributing expertise in a coordinated way toward Canada’s reconstruction efforts in Haiti. On January 21, FCM’s Big City Mayors’ Caucus (BMC) unanimously adopted a declaration of support, proposed by the city of Montreal, agreeing to contribute expertise to a Canada-wide bank of experts, and voluntary financial assistance to an FCM-managed special reconstruction fund. Municipal associations from Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and other provinces are also encouraging their members to donate and to make available their expertise in basic municipal services. A special section of FCM’s website is now open at http://www.fcm.ca/en/haiti to update members on the evolving context and to capture further stories of the commitments and actions of Canadian municipalities.
On January 25, on behalf of FCM and BCMC, Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay spoke with Haiti’s Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive who stated that he considers municipal expertise a priority for Haiti’s reconstruction. Mayor Tremblay also spoke with Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon, expressing the offer of support from Canadian municipalities. FCM has also communicated with Minister Cannon and Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda to offer Canadian municipal assistance for initial assessment and long-term reconstruction, once the emergency situation is stabilized. In addition, FCM has also been in contact with various international municipal organizations to discuss a potential coordinated international municipal response for Haiti.

FCM reminds interested municipalities and municipal associations that they should register their offer of technical assistance to its expert database at http://fcm.ca/participation/English. FCM has also set up a special fund to support the rebuilding of Haiti. Municipalities who wish to pledge financial assistance dedicated to the reconstruction in Haiti can send their donation by cheque made out to the order of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Members of the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ) should register their interest at http://www.umq.qc.ca/urgence_haiti2010.asp and send their financial contribution directly to UMQ.

For more information on our response to the Haiti crisis, visit the FCM website or contact Katherine Murillo at kmurillo@fcm.ca.