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**TO:** Solid Waste Management Select Committee    **MEETING:** January 10, 2019

**FROM:** Larry Gardner  
Manager, Solid Waste Services    **FILE:** 5360-01

**SUBJECT:** Federation of Canadian Municipalities Vietnam Municipal Solid Waste Management Project

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board approve Solid Waste Services Manager, Larry Gardner, to participate as an expert volunteer on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Vietnam Municipal Solid Waste Management Project, Step 1.

### **SUMMARY**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has initiated a 3 year, \$1,000,000 project funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada to assist Vietnamese cities in managing their municipal solid waste. For Step 1 of the project, FCM is seeking individual experts as technical advisors from 2 or more Canadian municipalities or Regional Districts to help participating Vietnamese cities assess their municipal solid waste management practices, identify potential solutions and secure funding.

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is a world leader in municipal solid waste management and this initiative provides for a rare opportunity to benefit other communities in another country through the sharing of our experiences. Larry Gardner has more than 30 years' experience with solid waste management including the assessment, monitoring, and operation and monitoring of landfills. The combination of Larry Gardner's skills and the RDN's accomplishments make him a well suited candidate for the FCM initiative.

The initial commitment for Step 1 is a two-week mission to Vietnam in March 2019 with a total time commitment of approximately 18 days to cover preparation, travel, the mission and follow-up. FCM covers the travel expenses.

On successful completion of Step 1, FCM has planned for a general recruitment call to all FCM municipalities to become Vietnam Solid Waste Management partners, participating in the full project to its end in March 2021 (Step 2). The RDN's participation in Step 2 of the project would be a future decision of the Board.

### **BACKGROUND**

The *Improved Municipal Solid Waste Practices to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants in Vietnam Project* is funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada and implemented by

FCM and the Association of Cities in Vietnam. This two and a half year project will support two medium-size cities in Vietnam (Bac Giang in northern, and Hoi An in central Vietnam) to implement innovative pilot initiatives that contribute to the reduction of short-lived climate pollutants by improving practices in municipal solid waste management.

The project is being carried out in 2 steps as follows:

### **Step 1**

This first Step will see the selection of 2 or more volunteer technical advisors likely from 2 or more municipalities or Regional Districts to conduct a two-week mission to Vietnam in March 2019. This amounts to an initial commitment of approximately 18 days (i.e. prep, travel, mission, follow-up).

The focus of Step 1 is to consider:

- technologies for the capture of methane and to rehabilitate existing landfills;
- initiatives to increase and/or improve the treatment of organic waste, including separation and processing into viable compost materials; and
- increased capacity within participating cities for municipal solid waste planning and management.

### **Step 2**

In March 2019, FCM will open up a general call for expressions of interest for long-term (2 years) participation in the Vietnam Solid Waste Management project to all member municipalities. Applicants will be expected to commit to participation in four missions to Vietnam and hosting one Vietnamese study delegation over the life of the project.

The focus of Step 2 is to:

- participate with a team of solid waste practitioners from FCM member municipalities, technical experts/consultant, local Vietnamese experts and City staff to plan and deliver projects to help Vietnamese cities develop capacity, undertake activities and achieve solid waste management objectives.
- provide technical assistance (assisting and coaching) to Vietnamese counterparts to carry out their planned tasks related to landfill rehabilitation and gas control, organic waste separation and composting and/or solid waste management strategic planning;
- assess progress from previous missions and define activities to be carried out prior to the next mission;
- plan and conduct short workshops or seminars on topics of relevance to the cities if requested and included in the work plan;
- conduct a study program for a delegation of officials from Vietnam and,
- final mission (Feb/March 2021) – participate in the final knowledge sharing event and assist with project evaluation;

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve Solid Waste Services Manager, Larry Gardner, to participate as an expert volunteer on the FCM Vietnam Municipal Solid Waste Management Project, Step 1
2. Do not approve of participation in the Vietnam Municipal Solid Waste Management Project.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

All travel expenses are covered by FCM for the duration of the mission. Time is donated by the individual volunteer expert and the respective organization and is estimated at approximately 18 days with an estimated cost implication of the RDN of about \$8000 should the application be successful.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

Focus On The Environment- We Will Have A Strong Focus On Protecting And Enhancing Our Environment In All Decisions



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Larry Gardner  
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January 1, 2019

Reviewed by:

- R. Alexander, General Manager, Regional and Community Utilities
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer