



Mayor Report to Council

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada, V2L 3V9 | PrinceGeorge.ca

Date: March 4, 2025

To: Council

Name and title: Mayor Simon Yu

Subject: Inclusive Climate Action for Tunisian Municipalities (ICATM)

Attachment(s): None

Recommendation(s):

1. That Council considers submitting an application to participate in the Inclusive Climate Action for Tunisian Municipalities (ICATM) project. And further, that should the City of Prince George be selected, they sign the project MOU with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).
2. That, should the City of Prince George be successful in its expression of interest, Council identifies two individuals to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) meeting in Ottawa, March 24-25, 2025.

Background:

Tunisia is at the forefront of countries facing the impacts of climate change, particularly affecting the most vulnerable populations: women, youth, the elderly and marginalized groups. Faced with these challenges, the “Inclusive Climate Action in Tunisian Municipalities (ICATM)” project, which will run from March 2024 to February 2029, aims to strengthen the resilience of local communities while placing equity and inclusion at the heart of this endeavour. The project is funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and its partner in Tunisia, the International Development Center for Innovative Local Governance (CILG).

Through the ICATM project, municipalities will now have a solid framework for anticipating, adapting to and recovering from climate crises. This FCM project is working to build a future where everyone, regardless of gender or origin, can live safely and prosper despite the challenges of climate change.

The ultimate goal of the ICATM project is to strengthen the climate adaptation and resilience of municipalities in Tunisia, while promoting equity for women and vulnerable groups. Specifically, the project aims to:

- Better protect Tunisians from the devastating effects of climate change, by strengthening local capacities to anticipate, adapt and respond.
- Promote a positive perception of local adaptation measures, actively involving women, youth and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes.
- Encourage local authorities to replicate and adapt innovative approaches, drawing on local success stories to spread good practices across the country.

To turn these objectives into reality, the ICATM project relies on concrete actions adapted to local realities:

- Training and capacity-building programs: Supporting local authorities in their efforts to achieve inclusive, effective and sustainable climate governance.
- Community-led climate adaptation projects: Supporting and financing projects run by local municipalities, particularly those that actively involve women and vulnerable groups. These projects enable communities to implement natural solutions—such as sustainable agricultural practices or coastal zone protection—that will reduce their vulnerability to climate change.
- Sharing best practices: Create a collaborative network between Tunisian and Canadian municipalities, to exchange ideas and innovative solutions.

The ICATM project does not limit itself to developing strategies; it ensures their implementation on the ground for real impact through concrete actions that include, but are not limited to:

- Improved water and waste management, promoting a healthier living environment for communities.
- Preservation of local biodiversity through initiatives such as forest restoration and coastal zone protection.
- Raising community awareness of the importance of climate resilience and their key role in this transition.

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

To: FCM members

Program: Inclusive Climate Action for Tunisian Municipalities (ICATM)

Location: Tunisia

Date: March 2024–February 2029

Discussion:

On February 26th, Councillor Ramsay met with FCM to determine if the City of Prince George was interested in submitting an application to participate in an FCM International project funded by Global Affairs Canada. It should be noted that the deadline to apply is March 7th, however, FCM staff were made aware the earliest council could deliberate would be March 10th.

Global Affairs has provided a \$11.5M budget to develop solutions around inclusive climate adaptation and mitigation. Of the 9 Canadian Municipalities that are selected, there will be funding for demonstration projects. Additionally, three non-profit organizations within the 9 municipalities will be selected to highlight local level work implementing long term solutions.

Focus areas include water, erosion, fire mitigation, and loss of biodiversity. FCM is interested in the experience the City of Prince George could bring to this project and reached out inquiring if council would submit an application.

The project runs from March 2024 – 2029 and are planning for 1-2 study tours next year to work with Tunisian partners.

Should council endorse submitting an expression of interest, it would be appropriate to identify two (2) individuals from either council or administration to meet in Ottawa March 24 – 25, 2025 for the initial meetings for the project.

Financial Considerations:

The project is funded by a grant from Global Affairs Canada. The only financial contribution would be in-kind staff/council time.

Respectfully submitted:

Mayor Simon Yu

Meeting date: 2025/03/05