



Staff Report

Administration – Chief Administrative Officer

Report To: Special Meeting of Council
Meeting Date: November 9, 2023
Report Number: FAF.23.178
Title: Mayor Matrosovs Attendance at the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit
Prepared by: Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.23.178, entitled “Mayor Matrosovs Attendance at the COP28 Local Climate Summit”;

AND THAT Council support Mayor Matrosovs’ acceptance of the invitation to be a delegate at the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit from December 1 to 2, 2023 and to be a participant in the thematic days from December 3 to 6, 2023;

AND THAT Council approve the attendance of Mayor Matrosovs at the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit that is hosted in Expo City, Dubai from December 1 to December 2, 2023;

AND THAT Council approve the attendance of Mayor Matrosovs's Accompanying Attendee who will travel with the Mayor to the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit and who will be determined by the Mayor and CAO.

B. Overview

This report is required to be brought forward for Council consideration and approval for Mayor Matrosovs to travel out of the Country to attend the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit. Additional consideration will also be required by Council in relation to the Mayor’s Accompanying Attendee that has also been offered through this opportunity.

C. Background

By-Law 2020-18 Being a By-law to Establish a Compensation and Expense Policy for the Mayor and Members of Council Section g) Conferences/Seminars stipulates that “Participation at Conferences and Seminars, beyond two (2) per calendar year, or out of Province must be specifically approved by Council”. In accordance with the procedure outlined in [Staff Report FAF.23.070](#), in cases where the Mayor wishes to attend additional Conferences/Seminars, a staff report outlining the details would be provided directly to Council by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

The inaugural Local Climate Action Summit is being held in tandem with the World Climate Action Summit during the COP28 in Expo City, Dubai from December 1-2, 2023. Hosted by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the COP28 Presidency, this historic convening will recognize the critical role of local leaders in reducing emissions, addressing climate risk, and supercharging national efforts to move further and faster on climate progress.

Over the last decade, subnational governments have played a critical role in climate mitigation and adaptation as many cities are reducing per capita emissions faster than their national governments. With an expected 70% of the global population to live in cities by 2050 and climate-driven natural disasters on the rise, more needs to be done faster to reduce emissions and ensure subnational governments are equipped for population growth and the economic, social, and environmental challenges resulting from a warming planet.

Cross-sector and multi-level governmental cooperation is critical to retaining climate ambition, especially as the first Global Stocktake – an assessment of progress towards delivering the goals of the Paris Agreement – concludes at COP28 and reveals the gaps in our efforts to keep a 1.5° C future within reach.

Backed by world-leading networks of local leaders including the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), United States Conference of Mayors, the Under2 Coalition, and others, the Summit aims to bring together hundreds of national and subnational climate leaders to transform climate finance, enhance multilevel action, fast-track the energy transition, and strengthen resilience and adaptation at the local level.

D. Analysis

On Friday November 3, 2023 Mayor Matrosovs was invited to attend and participate in the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit by Mr. Michael R. Bloomberg, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solution and H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber. This Summit is scheduled to take place from December 1 to December 2, 2023 in Expo City, Dubai. This invitation was extended to Mayor Matrosovs based on a nomination supported by the ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, a global network of local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development.

The thematic days following the Summit will include multi-level government action: COP28 will feature a historic presence of local leaders, including mayors, governors, parliamentarians, business and civil society leaders, united to accelerate climate action across all levels of government and society. The day will also highlight solutions to transition to low carbon and resilient built environments and infrastructure, sustainable and circular waste systems, and sustainable mobility and freight. The day will particularly look at action in urban areas, where population growth, economic activity, and greenhouse gas emissions converge.

The cost of travel, lodging, and most meals while attending the Local Climate Action Summit thematic days until December 7, 2023 will be covered through a reimbursement process by C40

Cities Climate Leadership group for the Mayor and the Mayor's Accompanying Attendee. A per diem of \$173 USD per day can also be claimed to cover meals and incidental expenses.

Guidance regarding considering gifts and benefits is outlined in the Town's Code of Conduct for Members of Council, Local Boards and Advisory Committees Policy [POL.COR.21.06](#). The Policy notes a series of exceptions when considering a gift and/or benefit. Item f) under "Gifts and Benefits" of the Policy provide the rationale for the Mayor to graciously accept the invitation and associated offer provided by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership group.

Item f) states:

Official Hospitality, including food, lodging, transportation and entertainment provided by provincial, regional and local government or political subdivisions of them, by the Federal government or by a foreign government within a foreign country, or by a conference, seminar or event where the Member is either speaking or attending in an official capacity.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders.

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

Air travel to and from Dubai.

G. Financial Impacts

The C40 Cities will reimburse the costs related to the Local Climate Action Summit. It is estimated that the total costs that would be eligible for reimbursement are estimated to be:

- Round trip flights for two - \$16,000
- Accommodation for two rooms - \$11,500 (CAD) for seven (7) nights
- Per Diem is limited to \$250 (CAD) per day per person totalling an estimated \$3,500 total for two people
- Total estimated costs to be fully reimbursed is \$31,000

Travel

One round-trip Business Class ticket exclusively for the invited delegate (head of state/region/province or mayor/mayoral equivalent) attending COP28. This ticket is not transferable to any other person.

One round-trip Economy Class ticket for one person accompanying the invited delegate to the Local Climate Action Summit.

Accommodation

Up to seven (7) nights of single occupancy accommodation (checking in on November 30, checking out on December 07 at the latest) at the Waldorf Astoria Dubai International Financial Centre or The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai International Financial Centre for the invited delegate and their accompanying attendee.

Per Diems

Invited delegates and accompanying attendees are eligible to claim up to \$173 USD per day to cover their meals and incidental expenses.

Reimbursement Process

All required forms need to be submitted by Friday, 16 February 2024 in order to request reimbursement.

H. In Consultation With

Mayor Matrosovs

Sam Dinsmore, Acting Director of Finance and IT Services

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer cao@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Summit Schedule and Overview

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt
Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	FAF.23.178 Mayor Matrosovs Attendance at the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment-1-Summit-Schedule-and-Overview.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 8, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Shawn Everitt - Nov 8, 2023 - 9:36 AM