



Staff Report

Administration – Chief Administrative Officer

Report To: Council Meeting
Meeting Date: November 20, 2023
Report Number: FAF.23.179
Title: Response to Request from Council Regarding Delegate Attendance at COP28
Prepared by: Mayor Matrosovs and Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.23.179, entitled “Response to Request from Council Regarding Delegate Attendance at the COP28”;

AND THAT Council consider this report and provide input to the Mayor no later than November 27, 2023;

AND THAT Council be advised that an additional Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document will be provided to Council and the public at the November 20, 2023 Council Meeting directly related to this report.

B. Overview

This report is a response to the following request from Council and is intended to provide updates to the details already provided in [Staff Report FAF.23.178](#) at the November 9, 2023 Special Meeting of Council:

Moved By: Councillor Hope

Seconded By: Councillor Maxwell

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

AND THAT Council approve the attendance of Mayor Matrosovs at the 2023 COP28 Local Climate Action Summit that is hosted in Expo City, Dubai, as required by By-law 2020-18, "Being a By-law to Establish a Compensation and Expense Policy for the Mayor and Members of Council";

AND THAT Council acknowledges that the above approvals are contingent that all expenses and travel arrangements will be booked and paid directly by C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group;

AND THAT Council requests that written goals and objectives for the conference be submitted by Mayor Matrosovs to Council by November 20, 2023, for Council

consideration and input. Council also requests that a return on investment report be prepared following the conference and submitted to Council in January, 2024.

C. Background

COP28 (Conference of the Parties) Local Climate Action Summit Aims

The COP28 Local Climate Action Summit will be the first Summit hosted by the COP Presidency in recognition of the critical role local leaders play in reducing emissions, addressing climate risk, and supercharging national efforts to move further and faster on climate progress. Hosted by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Summit aims to bring together national and subnational climate leaders to transform climate finance, enhance global action, fast-track the energy transition, and strengthen resilience and adaptation at the local level. This Summit is backed by world-leading networks of local leaders including the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and (UCLG), US Conference of Mayors, the Under2 Coalition, the World Resources Institute (WRI), and others.

Section 226.1 of the Municipal Act states, “As chief executive officer of a municipality, the head of council shall... c) act as the representative of the municipality both within and outside the municipality, and promote the municipality locally, nationally and internationally.

As an invited delegate, the Mayor will be representing our Town at an opportunity where she will connect with fellow leaders to align, share, and advance climate action plans. It is key that this engagement at an international summit includes representation from small municipalities and not just large cities. The majority of municipalities across Canada are small or medium. Our voice is not less significant simply because of population. Given the pivotal role local governments play in fighting the climate crisis, COP28 and the Local Climate Action Summit provide an invaluable platform for national and world leaders to directly engage and learn about our own climate action plan, progress, and ongoing projects. This paves the way for transformative, collective ambition and action on a global scale.

Nomination and ICLEI Membership

The Town has been a member municipality of ICLEI Canada since 2009. The benefit of membership and active participation with ICLEI (International Committee for Environmental Initiatives) is the global-scale access they provide to small local governments. The membership fees are an annual cost of approximately \$660 Canadian dollars.

ICLEI provides access to a network of municipal-level resources from around the globe. ICLEI has climate and biodiversity programming and information sharing. The Town has access to expertise and assistance with the Partners for Climate Protection milestone program, which builds and supports our capacity to complete GhG inventories. We are also working with Grey County (also a member) to participate in ICLEI's BARC (Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities) program which is a framework for achieving a local climate adaptation action plan and local capacity.

The Town's Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste, Jeffery Fletcher was voted in and appointed as an ICLEI RexCom Canada Board member in 2020. This is an unpaid Board position that conducts essential board-level work and financial audit reviews. Jeffery Fletcher has the privilege of being a candidate for the 2024-2027 term as well. Mr. Fletcher has confirmed that in his capacity as a Board Member of the ICLEI, he had no role or insight into the nomination of Mayor Matrosovs and had no knowledge or involvement in coordinating the invitation to the Mayor.

This nomination by ICLEI is a benefit of being a member of ICLEI. COP (Conference of Parties) resolutions rely on participation to build consensus across multiple levels of government and other stakeholders. ICLEI Canada's Executive Director Megan Meaney confirmed they nominated only 40 mayors to submit to C40 Climate Leadership Group for their consideration. She stated they selected the 40 based on demonstrated active engagement in Climate Action of municipality who could represent the voice of Canadian municipalities in the delegation. In addition to the active work of Mr. Fletcher, Mayor Matrosovs has also in the last year participated with Ewa Jackson, Managing Director of ICLEI and Rena Viehbeck, Climate Change Manager at three events where ICLEI Canada was also a participant or organizer (Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative AGM/Conference, Livable Cities Conference Mayor's Forum, and a National Climate Adaptation Summit). It is not yet known how many of the 40 were ultimately invited by C40 and who will be attending from across the country. FCM also followed the same process, so there will be municipalities represented via that nomination stream. Networking and building relationships with both our Canadian and international counterparts will be a key component of attending COP28.

Our Town has a history of benefits from our ICLEI membership. At no cost to the Town, Manager Jeff Fletcher attended the Nordic climate workshop in Sweden as a member of the Canadian ICLEI Board and attended two conferences (Sweden and Montreal). He was an ICLEI RexCom Canada Board member in 2020 and is a candidate for the 2024-2027 board term.

ICLEI provides access to a network of municipal-level resources from around the globe. ICLEI has climate and biodiversity programming and information sharing. We have access to expertise and assistance with the Partners for Climate Protection milestone program, which builds and supports our capacity to complete GhG inventories. We are also working with Grey County (also an ICLEI member) to participate in the BARC (Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities) program which is a framework for achieving a local climate adaptation action plan and local capacity.

As outlined in [Staff Report FAF.23.178](#), Mayor Matrosovs received an invitation to attend the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit via email on November 3, 2023. The email was addressed to Mayor Matrosovs and was received from Michael R. Bloomberg, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change Ambition and Solution and H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jabar, COP28 President-Designate UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change. Staff Report FAF.23.178 was prepared for a Special Meeting of Council on November 9, 2023. The report was provided to Council at 11:30 a.m. on November 8, 2023 and posted to the Town's website at 12:00 p.m. that same day. In accordance with the Town's Procedural By-law 2023-62, Special Meetings of Council require a minimum notice of one clear day.

A subsequent email received by Mayor Matrosovs on November 7, 2023 from the ICLEI's Global Advocacy Team indicated that the ICLEI supported Mayor Matrosovs' nomination to receive an invitation to the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit.

D. Analysis

At COP28, local leaders will demonstrate action, show challenges, and advocate for multi-level action and funding. The Local Climate Action Summit will help subnational leaders advance community needs in three ways:

- Elevate the role and significance of subnational governments at COP28
- Accelerate climate action by integrating subnational action into national climate goals and plans
- Improve access to sustainable financial mechanisms to mobilize dollars in public and private investment needed at the subnational level

To have provided municipal-level input into national and international policy and agreements is a major objective to ensure what is decided considers viability at the local level. On October 21, 2019, the Town of The Blue Mountains declared a Climate Change Emergency to enhance and accelerate action on our commitment to protecting our community, economy, and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change. Big moves of our Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (Future Story adopted in 2022) include creating climate solutions, collaborating, and taking action. As noted earlier, working with ICLEI Canada at any level provides key benefits. The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) to help us achieve Milestone 5 in FCM's Partners for Climate Protection Program (Bold Action #1), is a joint program of ICLEI and FCM. This opportunity will also help inform some of the key steps of developing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan with Grey County's Climate Change Action Plan (Bold Action #3). A Community Sustainability Summit (Bold Action #19) is an opportunity to include presentations on progress and dialogues on sustainability. Hosting the summit in January 2024 will allow what was learned and advocated at COP28 to be shared with both Town and regional stakeholders.

COP28 Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS) Delegate Itinerary

1. December 1 to 2, 2023: World Climate Action Summit and Local Climate Action Summit

Local Climate Action Summit

Organizers: Bloomberg Philanthropies - Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS)

COP28 will be a pivotal moment to deliver a robust collective response to the latest climate science to reset global climate efforts. In addition to hosting the first-ever mayoral delegation to the World Climate Action Summit, the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies will convene the complementary COP28 Local Climate Action Summit, uniting subnational and national leaders to establish a new paradigm for fully integrated climate action between governments at all levels across four core themes: Transforming Local Climate Finance; Integrating Local Contributions to Enhance Global

Action; Fast-tracking the Local Energy Transition; Strengthening Local Resilience and Adaptation.

The COP28 Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS) will unite subnational and national leaders to establish a new paradigm for fully-integrated climate action between governments at all levels across four core themes:

- Transforming Local Climate Finance: Strengthen sustainable financial mechanisms to mobilize the trillions of dollars in public and private investment needed globally at the subnational level to deliver real change.
- Integrating Local Contributions to Enhance Global Action: Incorporate local implementation into national and international climate policy design and determine how best to factor subnational action into future national and global climate goals, including for 2030.
- Fast-tracking the Local Energy Transition: Propel rapid advancements across pivotal sectors and surface new strategies to deliver ambitious results locally.
- Strengthening Local Resilience and Adaptation: Protect residents and infrastructure from immediate and future climate risks.

2. December 3 to 5, 2023: Multilevel Action and Urbanization Pavilion and Thematic Days

a) Multilevel Action and Urbanization Pavilion at COP28: The global stage for the cities and regions at COP28

Co-hosts: Scottish Government and Bloomberg Philanthropies, in partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) and C40 Cities

The Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion serves as the global stage for the city climate agenda during COP28. The Pavilion will bring into focus not only the challenges and needs, but also the accomplishments and commitments of local and subnational actors on climate action.

Our inclusive platform brings together cities, towns, regions, and representatives from the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency organizations, as well as individuals and groups dedicated to supporting local and subnational actors in playing more substantial roles in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The Pavilion is co-convened by UN-Habitat and ICLEI in its role as the focal point of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA Constituency). The Pavilion is co-hosted by the Scottish Government and Bloomberg Philanthropies, in partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) and C40 Cities.

b) Thematic Program Days

In addition to the Pavilion agenda specifically for and by subnational leaders, there will also be thematic days of programming.

- December 3: Health/Relief, Recovery and Peace
- December 4: Finance/Trade/Gender Equality/ Accountability
- December 5: Energy/Industry, Just Transition, Indigenous Peoples

3. December 6, 2023: Multilevel Action, Urbanization and Built Environment

a) The Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

Hosts: COP28 Presidency, UN-Habitat and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28

This second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate will be the high-level event of the December 6 day of COP28. The Ministerial Meeting will convene Ministers of Housing, Urban Development, Environment and/or Finance, local and regional leaders, financial institutions, and relevant non-government stakeholders to clearly articulate a suite of multilevel actions for sustainable urbanization across sectors including buildings, waste, transport, water, energy, and nature. The recommendations will be carried forward to the climate change negotiations.

- Ministers of Housing, Urban Development, Environment and/or Finance, will convene with local and regional leaders, financial institutions, and relevant non-government stakeholders
- Discussion will include accelerating local climate finance to facilitate a cross-sector and integrated approach on how cities and local governments can be better equipped to respond to the climate crisis
- Recommendations from the Ministerial Meeting will be carried forward to the climate change negotiations

b) Thematic Program Day

- The remainder of the day will be in multilevel roundtables and sessions for the Multilevel Action, Urbanization and Built Environment Day

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

Travel to and from Dubai.

G. Financial Impacts

There is no cost (\$0) to the Town for this opportunity. C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group is covering all travel, accommodation, and per diem expenses from November 30 (overnight flight departing November 29) to December 7 (overnight returning to Canada on the same date) because there is a full week agenda including working on weekend days for subnational leaders.

All travel and accommodation have been arranged by C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group directly, and the Mayor will be submitting receipts for per diem expenses directly to C40. The Mayor extends her appreciation to C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and the COP28 Presidency for dedicating a space to local and regional climate efforts.

Integrity Commissioner Suzanne Craig has confirmed in our Town Code of Conduct Gifts and Benefits section this is recognized as an acceptable arrangement under Exception f) Official Hospitality, including food, lodging, transportation, and entertainment provided by provincial, regional, and local governments 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.

H. In Consultation With

Jeff Fletcher, Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste

Megan Meaney, Executive Director, ICLEI Canada

Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner

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

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt
Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact:
cao@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 234

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	FAF.23.179 Response to Request from Council Regarding Delegate Attendance at the COP28.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 16, 2023

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

Shawn Everitt - Nov 16, 2023 - 1:41 PM