

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Councillor Jeromy Farkas files joint Notice of Motion to Cut Excessive Spending on Conferences**

**January 25, 2018, Calgary, AB** - “Councillor Jeff Davison and I have filed an urgent Notice of Motion to cut excessive spending on external conferences. Calgarians are facing the worst economic downturn in a generation, and rightfully expect their Council to lead by example and make every effort to reduce costs within its control.

Our Notice of Motion limits the number of Councillors who can attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in Halifax. The fee for the conference is up to \$1,180 per person, not including airfare, hotel, food, and other amenities. At present, every Councillor is budgeted to go, but I refuse. The motion will also require those Councillors who do attend conferences to provide a 5-minute public presentation to justify the value achieved.”

The attached Notice of Motion is anticipated to be debated by City Council on Monday, January 29, 2018.



Report Number: C2018-0121

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council

Meeting Date: 2018 January 29

## URGENT BUSINESS

### NOTICE OF MOTION

**RE: Spending on External Conferences**

**Sponsoring Councillor(s):** Jeff Davison  
Jeromy Farkas

---

WHEREAS the citizens of Calgary are experiencing a difficult economic downturn;

AND WHEREAS the private sector has employed cost cutting practices relating to external conferences;

AND WHEREAS Calgarians rightfully expect their City Council to lead by example and continue to make every effort to reduce costs within its control;

AND WHEREAS the Office of the Councillors has budgeted for all City Council members to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities ("FCM") 2018 Annual Conference and Trade Show in Halifax, Nova Scotia;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council directs the Office of the Councillors to limit FCM 2018 Annual Conference travel costs to the Mayor, the FCM Board Director and three Councillors to be chosen by random draw;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Councillor-attendees of the FCM 2018 Annual Conference present a five-minute summary of findings and value achieved from the Conference at a public meeting of Council no later than July 2018;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that City Council implement a similar approach as highlighted above for all future conferences attended by Councillors occurring at the taxpayers' expense.