

For immediate release

## Literacy champions: Federation of Canadian Municipalities backs advocacy efforts

### FCM asks Government of Canada to add literacy to policies



**September 18, 2023 – VANCOUVER –** At its September Board meeting, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) passed a motion to advocate for literacy initiatives across Canada.

“Having the powerhouse of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities behind advocacy for literacy programs is a huge boost,” said Sandra Lee, Executive Director of Decoda Literacy Solutions, BC’s provincial literacy organization. “This is an important recognition of how literacy can help address a wide range of issues.”

Decoda worked with Vancouver City Council on the motion, which asked FCM to add literacy to its “Inclusive Communities” advocacy work of the FCM’s Social Economic Development Committee. It calls on the Government of Canada to add explicit references to literacy in policies such as poverty

### Working together for literacy

reduction, health and connecting rural and remote communities through broadband Internet access. The resolution was passed by committee and ratified by the full Board.

“We are thrilled that FCM has adopted literacy as an advocacy cause,” said Lisa Dickner, Executive Director of Community Learning Network in Alberta. “This type of nation-wide support and engagement will have a positive ripple-effect, impacting so many individuals and communities”

FCM is a membership-based organization which advocates on behalf of local governments to the Government of Canada. The 2100-plus members of the FCM represent over 90% of the population of Canada, from rural communities to major cities.

Municipal leaders from across Canada assemble each year to set FCM policy on key issues. They then advocate to ensure the needs of their citizens are reflected in federal policies and programs. Some examples include the Gas Tax (returning funds to local governments), the Infrastructure Program, and numerous Government of Canada budgets.

“Decoda Literacy Solutions is proud to have played a key role in bringing this motion forward and is grateful and excited to see literacy become an FCM priority,” said Lee.

### **About Decoda Literacy Solutions**

[Decoda Literacy Solutions](#) is BC’s literacy organization working to improve literacy so people can thrive in their communities. It supports community-based literacy programs and initiatives in over 400 communities across BC by providing resources, training and funds.

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**Photo:** FCM\_PR\_Literacy Matters\_Decoda-300.jpg

**Credit:** Wendi D Photography

**Photo caption:** The Federation of Canadian Municipalities asks Government of Canada to add literacy to federal policies.

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### **For more information contact:**

Sandra Lee, Executive Director, Decoda Literacy Solutions  
[slee@decoda.ca](mailto:slee@decoda.ca)    604-681-4199 x. 419