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**Towards Parity in Municipal Politics (TPMP)
Vers la parité en politique municipale (VPPM)**

“Toward Parity” : Breaking Down Barriers – Opportunities for Parity

UBCM Annual Conference

**By: Stephanie Hoey-
September 23, 2019**



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Parity - Year 2126 ?

- Global gender gap will take 108 years to close and economic gender parity will take 202 years to achieve
- *In Canadian political representation: 2015 set a record 88 seats = 26.9 % seats Which put us in 50th in 2015 and 61st today*
- *Municipally, in 2015, women accounted for 28% of councillors and 18% of mayors*



Overview of Toward Parity Project

- Funded by Department for Women and Gender Equality (formerly SWC) over 30 months
- Implemented by FCM - In partnership with Equal Voice, Canadian Women Foundation and the PTAs
- Builds on past projects and current momentum
- Present an action plan to address barriers to women's participation in municipal politics



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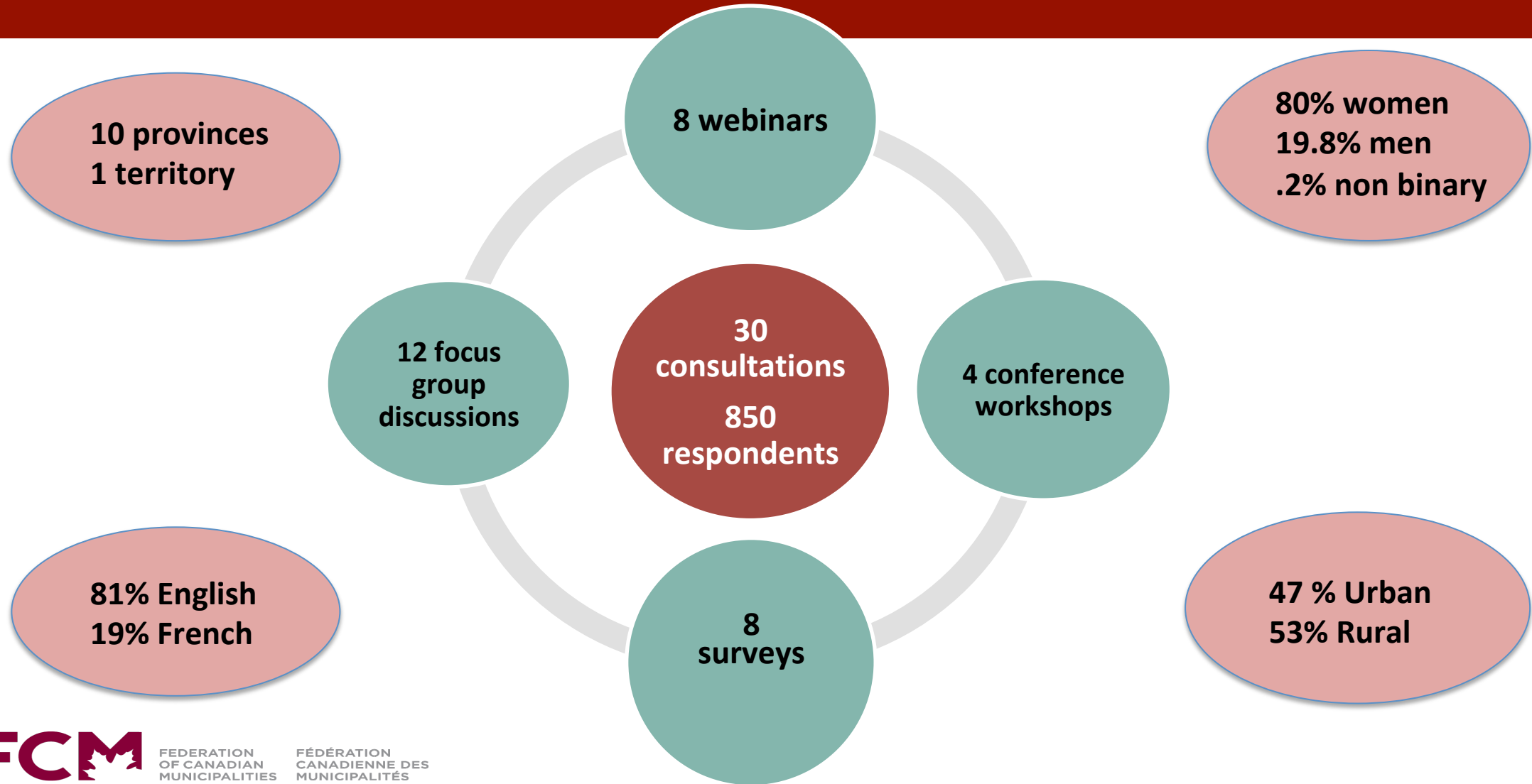


Toward Parity - Deliverables

- Broad consultation
- Development of an Action Plan/ Strategy
- Implement demonstration projects
- Knowledge Hub - to share tools, strategies, best practices and case studies



Consultations conducted



Toward Parity Action Plan

RUN WIN LEAD

Municipal Sector plan for Achieving Gender Parity in Municipal Government

- **VISION**

FCM envisages a Canada in which parity in women's representation in municipal government becomes the new norm. Our vision is one in which women of all identities, and at a rate equal to that of men:

- **RUN** for elected municipal office
 - **WIN** their campaigns
- **LEAD** on issues of importance to their constituents.



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Toward Parity Action Plan

Four Thematic Pillars of Action

- 1) Access to information
- 2) Enhanced inclusion
- 3) Increased support
- 4) Improved governance and structure



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Parity in municipal politics framework

Including:

- Increased mentorship and encouragement
- Enhanced work-life balance and support for familial responsibilities
- Enhanced and shared practical supports
- Inclusive workplace accommodations

Including

- Enhanced inclusive policies
- Strengthened relationships between women's groups and councils
- Increased women's participation and input into consultation processes

Increased Support

Improved Access to Information

*OPPORTUNITIES
TO ACHIEVE
PARITY*

Improved Governance and structures

Including :

- Collection of disaggregated data
- Enhanced knowledge sharing and best practices
- Greater access to tools, training, and manuals.
- Dispel negative stereotypes and false perceptions

Including

- Recognition and action to reduce societal /systemic barriers (sexism, racism, etc.)
- Action to mitigate economic inequalities
- Inclusive and transparent processes
- Reduction of Intimidation and harassment

Enhanced Inclusion



Toward Parity Action Plan

1) Access to information

Comprises all the gaps in information that exist from tools, best practices, and knowledge about running a campaign to the data gaps and misinformation that persist about the roles and responsibilities of local government



Toward Parity Action Plan

2) Enhanced inclusion

Is looking to address a number of societal barriers including but not limited to disparities due to gender, race, age, economic status/standing. The inclusion theme also tackles key issues such as intimidation, harassment and exclusionary norms and processes.



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Toward Parity Action Plan

3) Increased support

Entails the steps, mechanism and process that could be put in place to ensure that all women have support to overcome barriers or balance out additional burdens that exist as a result of their gender. This includes familial support, access to mentorship, policies or work place accommodations



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Toward Parity Action Plan

4) Improved governance and structure

Captures the policies, structures and broader relationships with stakeholders that will allow for more informed and reflective decision making for the community.



Toward Parity Action Plan

3 Prioritized areas for intervention

A. Mentorship and encouragement

From the Increased support pillar

B. Breaking down informal networking and decision making –

From the Enhanced inclusion pillar

C. Improved access and sharing of information

From Increased access to information pillar



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Toward Parity Action Plan – 1st Priority

Mentorship and encouragement

- 1.1 Provision and space for formalised mentoring and accompaniment
- 1.2 Peer and thematic based mentoring
- 1.3 Engagement of men
- 1.4 Building pipeline of candidates and leaders



Toward Parity Action Plan – 2nd priority

Breaking down informal networking and decision making

2.1 Engage stakeholder in the process to advocate against and dismantle

informal decision making

2.2 Addressing perpetuation of exclusionary type behaviour by all demographics

2.3 Actions to address unconscious bias and stereotypes

2.4 Increased social and cultural sensitization



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Toward Parity Action Plan – 3rd priority

Improved access and sharing of knowledge

- 3.1 Redressing information gaps at all stages; from attracting potential candidates; running successful campaigns and transitioning into the elected role
- 3.2 Increased dissemination and sharing of existing tools
- 3.3 Active programs to increasing awareness and positive perceptions of municipal politics
- 3.4 Collection and sharing of data



Mentorship and Encouragement

1.1 Provision and space for formalised mentoring and accompaniment

- Set up formal mentorship networks of women mayors and councillors
- Facilitate training and mentorship workshops and seminars for both mentors and mentees

1.2 Peer and thematic based mentoring

- Create peer mentor or thematic groups where women can connect
- Promote members who are taking leadership roles or addressing diversity and inclusion in innovative and engaging manners

1.3 Engagement of men

- Engage male leaders who want to be mentors for women councillors and/or mayors
- Actively make space for women during council and committee meetings

1.4 Building pipeline of candidates and leaders

- Support girls' learning from an early age: make yourself available for school presentations, or get involved with Girl Guides
- Celebrate successful women leaders, especially those of colour, religious or cultural minorities, indigenous and other groups to highlight positive examples regionally and nationally



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Breaking down informal networking and decision-making

2.1 Engage stakeholder in the process to advocate against and dismantle informal decision-making

- Identification of advocates and spokespersons (male and female) on the value and positive contributions of a gender diversified council
- Build, recruit and identify future leaders of varied backgrounds and identities

2.2 Addressing perpetuation of exclusionary behaviour by all demographics

- Municipalities to create Women's Advisory Committees to reach out to the communities
- Training for members on how to spot exclusionary practices and how to address it in an effective manner

2.3 Actions to address unconscious bias and stereotypes

- Training on “unconscious bias” and how to get rid of it
- Speaker series from impressive women to better understand others experiences, impact and opportunities

2.4 Social and cultural sensitization

- Actively seek new people in the community to help on committees and community groups
- Provide succession plans and best practices to recruit women



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Improved access and sharing of tools

3.1 Redressing information gaps at all stages-- from attracting potential candidates, running successful campaigns and transitioning into the elected role

- Mandatory training for individuals running for council on council roles, responsibilities, key functions, etc.
- “Mock council meetings” with relevant issues to walk potential candidates through a meeting to increase familiarity and realistic sense of how to be effective

3.2 Increased dissemination and sharing of existing tools – Knowledge hub

- Online surveys and interviews for former advisory body members to ask them about barriers they saw and suggestions on how to make it easier for women of visible minorities to become members
- Share existing models – easier to secure buy in if a municipality can show or learn from another municipality

3.3 Active programs to increase awareness and positive perceptions of municipal politics

- Funding for ongoing training and require councillors to earn a certain number of learning or training credits each year and ensure that relevant learning opportunities are easily accessible
- Conduct an analysis of the different campaigns nationally and international to create a platform of best practices and tools to share before municipal elections

3.4 Collection and sharing of data; Informed decisions are based on knowledge and data;

- Collect information, by gender, ethnicity, and identity to better showcase the gaps and how to address them
- Run a positive image campaign addressing negative PR issue regarding the role's of mayors and council



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Annex A - Potential actions and engagements

	Individual Level	Municipal or Council Level	Provincial or Regional Level	National Level
1.1 Provision and space for formalised mentoring and accompaniment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online training programs on key skills; including impactful communication, conflict resolution etc. • Share and seek out new perspectives • Include empathy in decision making processes • Focus on strong communication between mentee and mentor • Seek out mentors from alternate sectors for complimentary skills • Ensure you are not mentoring or championing people “just like you”, look for talents in others • Be willing to challenge your assumptions, to be curious about other styles, and adapt behaviors to meet others partway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up formal mentorship networks of women mayors and councillors who will mentor • For mentorships to be successful, pair women with someone from a similar size community and with similar personalities • Pair new councillors with established council members in the network to create a support group • Increased training and information for new councillors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up formal mentorship networks of women mayors and councillors who want to mentor and mentees who are looking for support across the region or province/territory. • Training videos and procedures to be shared online to help build practical skills (similar to minor hockey training for coaches) • Host mentoring workshops to give current elected officials the skills they need to mentor women effectively • Facilitate seminars on mentorship • Mandatory workshops that speak to good governance and respectful workplaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up formal mentorship networks of women mayors and councillors who will agree to be a mentor across the country. • Provide regional entities a roadmap to improve women’s representation • Implement national mentorship programs based on municipalities’ size, economy base or other characteristics • Organise a women’s caucus before elections



Next Steps and Timeline

- Action Plan (FCM Board - March 2020)
- Demonstrations Project
 - Implementation: Oct to May/June 2020
- Webinars (Nov-May 2020)
- Ongoing support and engagement
- Launching of Knowledge hub – tools, case studies, best practices and resources



Thank you for your support and engagement

If you have questions or comments please do not hesitate to
contact Stephanie at Shoey@fcm.ca



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