

- education and related opportunities;
- employment;
- the state of the local economy;
- the natural environment;
- personal and community health;
- personal financial security; and
- personal safety.

The QOLRS members comprise most of Canada's largest cities as well as some of the suburban municipalities surrounding them. One of FCM's objectives for the QOLRS program is to use the collected information as a diagnostic tool to focus on various national trends, to raise their profile, and to advocate for additional programs and funding on a national level. The purpose of the reports developed by the System is to focus on the state of urban centres in Canada and is not to rank one local government against another.

There are some notable cities that are missing from this list, such as Mississauga, Brampton, and Surrey. Surrey is one of Canada's largest cities and joining the QOLRS group will provide us with an opportunity to profile our city in the context of the other major cities in Canada.

Typically, the Committee associated with the QOLRS chooses one or two areas of study per year and collects data on those areas from its member local governments (e.g., the most recent published report in 2008 "Trends & Issues in Affordable Housing & Homelessness"). It then analyses the data and develops a report that documents the results and related conclusions for distribution to its members and for use in lobbying other orders of government for legislative changes and/or funding to address quality of life concerns.

It is envisioned that the recently approved Sustainability Office will be able to provide the necessary staff time required to coordinate the collection of Surrey data beyond what FCM is capable of collecting from other agencies, such as Stats Canada.

CONCLUSION

FCM has developed a Quality of Life Reporting System with twenty-two local government members comprising some of Canada's largest urban centres. FCM has requested that Surrey, as one of Canada's largest city, consider joining the QOLRS group to assist with their objective of focussing on various national quality of life issues and trends. It is recommended that Council endorse the City of Surrey joining this FCM initiative.

Dan Bottrill
Deputy City Manager

Attachment

Quality of Life Reporting System - Members

Vancouver
Calgary
Edmonton
Regina
Saskatoon
Winnipeg
Sudbury
London
Waterloo
Niagara Region
Hamilton
Halton Region
Peel Region
Toronto
York Region
Durham Region
Ottawa
Gatineau
CMQ (Quebec)
CMM (Montreal)
Laval
Halifax