

March 26, 2019

Mayor Blair Addresses Jordanian Municipal Officials

Colchester County Mayor Christine Blair has just returned from the country of Jordan where she delivered a keynote address on the importance of opportunities for women in municipal government. Her talk was enthusiastically received by a gathering of about a hundred state and municipal officials. Colchester is a partner in the Canadian Government's Jordan Municipal Support Project.



“It was truly an honour to share my own experiences with Jordanian women who have so much to offer their communities, but who are facing many barriers.” Mayor Blair has nearly three decades of involvement in municipal government as an elected representative. “Local governments in rural areas of both Jordan and in Nova Scotia can’t afford to overlook half their human resources while tackling challenges such as service delivery and economic development.”



The Mayor’s presentation also covered topics such as municipal structure and working collaboratively within the municipal unit and with other municipalities and First Nations.

There are no female mayors in Jordan currently. In fact, only one woman has ever served in the role. In an effort to increase opportunities for women, Jordan has introduced a requirement for twenty-five percent of municipal council seats to be filled by women. When the quota is not met through election results, appointments are made based on most votes received among otherwise unsuccessful candidates.

“There are many Jordanian women who are highly educated and capable. My goal was to inspire them to assert themselves into leadership roles. It’s not lost on me that Colchester could also improve on this” said Mayor Blair.



The Jordan Municipal Support Project mobilizes the Canadian municipal sector to assist rural and small-town municipalities in Jordan through a peer to peer approach, with elected representatives and staff meeting their Jordanian counterparts. Jordan has welcomed large numbers of refugees from around the region, especially from Syria, and communities are facing many challenges of capacity.

This five-year Project is funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in collaboration with Jordan’s Ministry of Municipal Affairs. All expenses relating to the County’s role in the Project are covered by Global Affairs Canada.

Through this project, local governments in Central and Southern Jordan work with Canadian municipal experts to strengthen municipal services, improve solid waste management, and ensure all citizens, including women and youth, engage in shaping their community’s future.

Colchester County was selected to participate for its achievement in solid waste management, including diversion, recycling, and public education initiatives. Mayor Christine Blair’s visit aligned with International Women’s Day celebrations.

“This was a whirlwind trip that I am grateful to be able to volunteer for” said Mayor Blair “Jordan is a fascinating and friendly country. I’m proud of the work that Colchester has been doing there.”