

Policy on inviting new municipalities to join the Congress of Neighboring Communities

Approved by Executive Committee, February 2015

PROCESS

Before entering into a formal partnership or agreement with a municipality, the officers of CONNECT will determine if offering membership to the municipality requesting membership aligns with CONNECT's goals and meets the membership criteria, and will then make a recommendation to the executive committee.

Once it has been determined that a municipality seeking membership aligns with the criteria outlined below, the officers will meet with a representative from the inquiring municipality to discuss membership and process. The municipal representative will gather any information needed and then the officers will present the information to the executive committee.

- A formal vote to accept approved municipality will be made at the next scheduled Congress.
- In the interim period, the municipality will be afforded all benefits of full membership.

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP TO CONNECT

The officers will use the following criteria to determine if the municipality should be afforded membership:

- The municipality is contiguous to a CONNECT community
- Potential member must have an interest in the policy issue areas CONNECT is currently addressing and/or have a multi-municipal policy issue they want to address through CONNECT
- Potential member's governing body must pass a resolution with a super-majority in support of membership in CONNECT
- Potential member's governing body must approve payment of the appropriate municipal contribution to CONNECT
- The municipality must be an active member of their COG