

## Karine Keys

**From:** FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** March 17, 2025 4:35 PM  
**To:** Karine Keys  
**Subject:** FCM Voice: AC registration now open | Municipalities stand stronger together | and more

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March 17, 2025



**FCM VOICE**  
Canada's voice of local government

**Stronger Together**

Annual Conference  
and Trade Show

May 29 to June 1, 2025  
Ottawa



**FCM**

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE: REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

**Register now for the 2025 Annual Conference and Trade Show.** From May 29 to June 1, join more than 1,500 elected municipal officials in Ottawa to network, build connections and discover practical resources to address the challenges facing your community.

With the theme *Stronger Together—Local Strength, National Prosperity* this conference will highlight the essential role of municipalities as engines of our country's economic prosperity.

Plan your trip to our Nation's Capital by visiting our conference website, where you'll find more information on our **program**, **study tours** as well as **accommodation** options.

You don't want to miss it!

» **GET THE EARLY-BIRD DISCOUNT UNTIL APRIL 23**

**NEWS**

## **Municipalities stand stronger together for Canada**

Last Friday Mark Carney was sworn in as Prime Minister of Canada alongside a new transitional federal cabinet of 24 ministers.

FCM remains steadfast in ensuring that municipal voices are heard at the highest levels. In recognition of the trade war facing Canadians, we are engaging with the new Prime Minister and key cabinet ministers to continue advancing municipal advocacy priorities—local economic resilience, infrastructure renewal, housing, ending homelessness, keeping our communities safe and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure.

Our message to the federal government is clear: municipal governments are ready to stand up for Canada and to advance economic resilience and prosperity in our local communities. Canada is stronger when we work together and investing in local strength is key to securing national prosperity.

These efforts are even more critical in the context of evolving Canada-U.S. dynamics. FCM will continue to engage the federal government and all political parties in the lead up to the federal election and beyond.

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## **Applications open: Accelerating community energy systems**

Are you ready to accelerate your municipality's energy transition? The Green Municipal Fund's Accelerating community energy systems program offers up to \$200K in funding and a two-year peer learning cohort to help municipalities scale their energy projects. Gain the tools and resources needed to implement community energy projects, navigate governance models, and build capacity for lasting impact. Whether you're starting out or scaling up, this program provides essential support. Expressions of interest are open until March 31!

» **APPLY NOW**

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## **Cambodian and Canadian Municipal Leaders Share Strategies for Inclusive Governance**

A delegation from the National League of Local Councils of Cambodia (NLC) visited Middlesex County, ON, and the Town of Truro, NS, as part of the PMI-WILL project. This exchange brought together Cambodian and Canadian municipal leaders to share strategies for more inclusive governance and enhanced service delivery.

During the five-day exchange, discussions centered on improving municipal services, strengthening leadership skills of women in local government, and exploring service initiatives that promote gender equality.

*This exchange is part of the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) project, funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by FCM.*

» **READ MORE**

## EVENTS

### **Collective webinar: Advancing transit standards**

Frequent and reliable public transit services are the lifeblood of economic growth in Canadian communities of all sizes. They offer effective solutions for many of the challenges faced by Canadians. As our population continues to grow, expanding and maintaining transit systems and their supporting infrastructure pose an increasingly urgent priority.

On March 26, join us and the Canadian Standards Association for a free webinar focused on how transit standards can support municipalities to enhance the efficiency, safety and sustainability of transit systems across the country.

» [REGISTER TODAY](#)

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### **Learn from an award-winning affordable housing project**

In Southern Ontario, Waterloo Region Housing will soon complete its newest community housing development, winner of a 2024 Sustainable Communities Award.

Join our webinar on Thursday, March 27, at 2 p.m. ET to hear an inspiring story about how a local government with no previous experience constructing net-zero buildings ended up with an award-winning project that proudly incorporates affordability, energy efficiency and community engagement.

» [SIGN UP TODAY](#)

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## RESOURCES

### **Learn how to improve the energy performance of new and existing buildings**

GMF's Sustainable Affordable Housing (SAH) initiative supports affordable housing providers as they retrofit existing affordable housing units or construct energy-efficient new builds.

Our five factsheets provide a how-to for successful projects and outline the benefits they provide, including increased affordability, lower GHG emissions and better quality of life for residents. Whether you want to make your current buildings more efficient or design a high-performance new build, these resources will provide key insights to help achieve your performance targets.

» [EXPLORE OUR SAH FACTSHEETS](#)

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### **Canada Water Agency announces new funding opportunities**

The federal government recently launched three funding initiatives to support freshwater protection and sustainability. Projects will protect or improve water quality,

drive innovation, support community-based monitoring, or incorporate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into critical decisions and actions, ensuring a sustainable future. Additional information and submission deadlines can be found below:

- **EcoAction Stream 2: Freshwater Sustainability and Innovation across Canada**
- **The Mackenzie River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative**
- **The Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative**

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## Testing solutions for coastal flooding and erosion

The City of Surrey, British Columbia, partnered with Semiahmoo First Nation and the City of Delta to tackle coastal flooding and erosion through the Living Dyke Pilot Project in Mud Bay. By using natural assets, the project protects nearby infrastructure and boosts biodiversity. Recognized with a 2024 Sustainable Communities Award, it showcases how natural asset management provides a sustainable, low-cost solution to coastal flooding and rising sea levels.

» [READ THE FULL CASE STUDY](#)

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## Energy efficiency meets equity: The Energize Bridgewater project

The Town of Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, has pioneered a project that tackles energy poverty while reducing GHG emissions. The award-winning Energize Bridgewater initiative offers energy monitoring technology, a client-focused navigation program and social support services.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

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## FCM IN THE NEWS

» **Sébastien D'Astous welcomes the easing of certain procurement contracts | Radio-Canada**

The Reeve of the Abitibi Regional County Municipality and Mayor of Amos, Sébastien D'Astous, welcomes the provincial government's initiative to ease the municipal procurement rules during the trade war with the U.S.

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» **Neal Comeau talks about tariffs, FCM's missions in the U.S. and rural realities | Real Talk Ryan Jespersen | YouTube [17:50-32:28]**

Neal Comeau, FCM's Rural Forum Chair and municipal councillor for Sturgeon County, had a discussion with Ryan Jespersen to talk about his recent trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with representatives of the National Association of Counties, and FCM's advocacy amid ongoing uncertainty.

» **FCM, local governments continue Trump tariff fight - Municipal World**  
Municipal World sat down with Winnipeg's Mayor Scott Gillingham and FCM's President Rebecca Bligh about the organisation's missions to the U.S. to meet with American counterparts amid the imposition of tariffs by the U.S. administration.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### Connect with us on social media

Follow FCM on social media to keep up to date with the latest municipal news, resources, and more! Find us on:



**Mar 11:** Municipalities will feel the impacts of a trade war deeply, and local leaders are uniquely positioned to convey the true impact of tariffs – on both sides of the border.

FCM representatives Mayor Pam Mood, Mayor Marc Doret and 1st VP [@TimTierney](#) are back from 3 days in Washington, where they engaged with American municipal leaders at [@leagueofcities](#).

We'll continue working together – as partners and neighbours. [#CCC25](#)  
[#CDNMuni](#) [#cdnpoli](#)

**Mar 14:** Thank you, [@JustinTrudeau](#), for your service to Canada and for a strong partnership with local governments over the years. [#CDNMuni](#) [#cdnpoli](#)

**Mar 14:** Congratulations to Canada's 24th Prime Minister, [@MarkJCarney](#), and the new federal cabinet.

Amid the current economic uncertainty, now is the time to strengthen the foundations of our country – and this work starts in our communities. FCM looks forward to working together, as partners, to ensure Canadians come out of the current economic challenge stronger. [READ MORE](#)



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