

## Karine Keys

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**From:** FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2025 3:09 PM  
**To:** Karine Keys  
**Subject:** FCM Voice: The future of rural Canada | Funding opportunities | and more

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June 16, 2025



# FCM VOICE

Canada's voice of local government



**The future of rural Canada: A must-read new report from FCM**

Rural Canada is essential to our nation's future: driving economic growth, powering key industries and building resilient communities. FCM has recently released a bold and practical report charting the path forward for rural municipalities. Built on the insights of rural leaders from across the country, it tackles urgent issues like aging infrastructure, inadequate connectivity and rising public safety pressures. It also offers tools and calls for a modernized approach that recognizes rural communities as essential partners in building Canada's prosperity. Explore this powerful report and see how rural Canada can lead the way to a stronger, more prosperous future.

» [READ THE FULL REPORT HERE](#)

## NEWS

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund is looking for its next Council member**

FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) is looking for a visionary sustainability leader from the private, environmental, academic or nonprofit sector to join its Council. The ideal candidate has expertise in GMF's environmental priorities including energy, water, land use, transportation, circular economy or integrated projects. As a Council member, they'll help shape strategic decisions, guide transformative initiatives and promote environmental stewardship across Canada.

We are committed to fostering an organizational culture that embraces equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging. We encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds, identities and abilities.

» [HELP US SPREAD THE WORD](#)

## FCM IN THE NEWS

### » **Housing and affordability top issues at AC2025**

Housing and affordability were at the top of the agenda as municipal leaders from across Canada met in Ottawa to discuss common issues and share strategies with their counterparts.

### » **AC2025: FCM President Rebecca Bligh - Cross Border Network [YouTube]**

FCM President Rebecca Bligh chats with Christopher Brown, host of the Cross Border Podcast at FCM's Annual Conference and Trade Show.

### » **RM of Stuartburn: Sundown Ridge Project set to tackle water issues in southeast**

A long-anticipated infrastructure project in southeastern Manitoba, the Sundown Ridge Project, is now underway. Spearheaded by the RM of Stuartburn in collaboration with the RM of Piney and the Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District, the initiative recently

secured a \$70,000 grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Green Municipal Fund. Local officials hail it as a transformative step for regional water management.

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» **Northern communities call for federal money and a say in Arctic decision-making**

Iqaluit Mayor Solomon Awa is calling for federal talks after a key resolution passed June 1 at FCM's Annual Conference and Trade Show. The resolution urges investment in northern infrastructure, inclusion in Arctic sovereignty talks, and recognition of the North's self-determination.

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» **A High-Rise Coming Soon Near You? | La Presse**

High-rises are likely to multiply in several Montreal neighborhoods, as the Plante administration opens its arms wide to projects that are taller and denser than ever.

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## EVENTS

### **Webinar: Climate budgeting for your community**

Your municipality has adopted a climate plan—now comes the hard work of putting it into action. With climate budgeting, local governments can more effectively incorporate climate commitments into their decision making on policies, actions and budget allocation.

Join us on June 19 at 2 p.m. ET for a free webinar about climate budgeting: what it is, how it works, why it matters and what some Canadian municipalities are already doing to make it happen.

» **REGISTER TODAY**

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## RESOURCES

### **Advice from Candiac: A plan to lower energy costs significantly in only five years**

The City of Candiac, Quebec, is taking action to reduce electricity use by up to 18,000 kWh and cut about 219 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from its community buildings. Karine Lehoux, Director of the Department of Ecological Transition and Innovation, shares her insights on coordinating a feasibility study to identify the retrofits that will deliver the most impactful results.

In our Q&A, she discusses which GMF resources were most helpful and offers practical advice for municipalities just getting started. With expert tips from GMF and success stories from Quebec, find inspiration for your own community.

» **LEARN MORE**

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### **Funding to invest in tree planting**

Trees are one of the most valuable natural assets. They bring long-term economic benefits to your community by lowering energy bills, saving health costs and creating tree-related jobs. If you have a tree planting project in mind, you can access up to \$10M in funding and resources to leverage the economic benefits of trees for your communities. Apply before September 18.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

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### **Affordable housing providers can lead the way with innovative GMF-funded pilot projects**

GMF's Sustainable Affordable Housing initiative funds pilot projects to test innovative and ambitious energy-efficiency solutions that aim to improve environmental outcomes. With available grants of up to \$500,000 to cover up to 80 percent of eligible expenses, this fund targets leading-edge pilot projects that generate significant GHG reductions for affordable housing providers and their communities.

» [APPLY FOR FUNDING TODAY](#)

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### **Build your case for retrofitting community buildings**

Every retrofit is an opportunity to do more than upgrade aging infrastructure. It's a chance to improve public health, strengthen emergency preparedness, and make facilities more inclusive and resilient.

Whether you're preparing a proposal or planning your next project, these two guides can help you make the strongest case—backed by practical measures worth considering and non-energy benefits like equity, air quality and climate resilience.

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## **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:



**June 10:** FCM CEO @carolesaab is with @Canada2020 today, along with Ottawa Mayor @\_MarkSutcliffe and other industry experts and leaders, for a one-day summit focused on Getting Big Things Done. To truly deliver for Canadians, we must focus on action—and a renewed partnership between all orders of government is key.

When it comes to housing, the federal government has ambitious goals—like building 500,000 new homes per year—which simply cannot be met without fully empowered local governments. By working together across orders of government, we can meet this moment. #CDNMuni #cdnpoli

**June 10:** At #FCM2025AC, members elected FCM's Table Officers and Board of Directors—a group of hard-working municipal leaders ready to carry FCM's ambitious advocacy agenda through the 2025-2026 year.

@CrossBorderPod sat down with President @rebeccaleeblich, 1st VP @TimTierney, 2nd VP @valentinokathy, 3rd VP Marc Doret and VP-at-Large @amycoadyGFW.

Listen to those conversations here: <https://t.co/38TAqEMf3T>

#CDNMuni #cdnpoli

**June 16:** Around the world, local governments are on the front lines of today's most pressing priorities—like housing, climate change and technological transformation. Through the #Urban7 engagement group, local leaders from #G7 countries are calling for stronger cooperation across orders of government.

Last month at #FCM2025AC, FCM President @rebeccaleeblich presented the U7 Mayors' Declaration to Cindy Termorshuizen, Associate Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Personal Representative of the Prime Minister of Canada for the G7 Summit.

Sustainable, inclusive progress depends on strong multilevel governance.



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