

## Karine Keys

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**From:** FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>  
**Sent:** August 11, 2025 2:39 PM  
**To:** Karine Keys  
**Subject:** FCM Voice: FCM's Budget 2025 recommendations | Non-board committee member applications open | Funding opportunities | and more

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August 11, 2025



### FCM's recommendations for Budget 2025

With critical priorities like nation-building projects, rural and trade-enabling infrastructure and Arctic sovereignty in mind, municipalities throughout the Prairies and Territories know that a stronger, more resilient future for Canada starts in our hometowns.

Earlier this month, FCM submitted our pre-budget recommendations to the House of Commons Finance Committee. Budget 2025 comes at a pivotal time for Canadians, and local governments have a strategic role in Canada's success. These recommendations support the vision for a stronger Canada, from building 500,000 new homes a year, to putting in place major new infrastructure, boosting rural Canada and ensuring a strong and resilient economy.

[» READ THE SUBMISSION](#)

**NEWS**

## Across the Canadian Prairies, GMF is supporting local success stories

Communities in the Prairies are a major contributor to Canada's economy and are taking the lead on climate action. But they also face unique climate challenges such as drought, flooding and other extreme weather events that demand practical solutions.

GMF funding is helping municipalities plan and implement projects that reduce emissions, improve affordability and enhance local resiliency. With this new resource, you'll learn how GMF-supported upgrades could benefit your community.

» **DISCOVER GMF'S IMPACT IN THE PRAIRIES**

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## Apply to become a non-board member for FCM's standing committees and forums

Non-board members are invited to apply for one of up to 14 positions to serve on select policy committees and forums that contribute to the work of the FCM Board. FCM's President makes committee appointments based on applicants' experience, expertise and interests, as well as the need for regional, community size and demographic representation on each committee.

New as of this year: pursuant to the *Non-Board Committee Member Appointment Policy* passed in May 2025, all appointments will take into consideration diversity factors that will contribute to ensuring Board committees are representative of Canada. The application deadline is August 25.

**NEW: Deadline to submit the supporting Council resolution is September 8.**

» **APPLY TODAY**

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## Historic win for women's leadership in Zambia

At the recent joint Annual Conference of the Local Government Association of Zambia (LGAZ) and the Alliance of Mayors' Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL), a landmark amendment was adopted: a minimum of 30% women's representation across all LGAZ leadership structures will now be enshrined in the Association's constitution.

This historic milestone reflects the leadership of Zambian women councillors and administrators, and the momentum they've built over the years to ensure their voices are not just present, but influential. With support from FCM's Partnership for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) project, funded by Global Affairs Canada, LGAZ advanced this change through dialogue, collaboration, and bold advocacy, both within and beyond its governing bodies.

This is an example of how Canadian municipal expertise, shared through PMI-WILL, is contributing to stronger, more inclusive local governance globally.

## EVENTS

### **NEW webinar: Explore safe and sustainable railway operations**

FCM's Collective webinar series is coming back this fall! In partnership with CN, the first webinar on September 16 will help community leaders to better understand the strategies, technologies and methods employed to ensure safe and sustainable railway operations in a constantly evolving industry. Participants will hear about CN's Fire and Suppression fleet, a custom-designed in-house fleet of five trains that can deploy firefighting resources to remote and inaccessible areas.

» [REGISTER NOW](#)

## FCM IN THE NEWS

### » **Wildfires and what comes next | CTV News**

Thompson Councilor and FCM's Second Vice-President Kathy Valentino talked to CTV Morning Live Winnipeg about the ongoing wildfire situation in her community and why all orders of government must work together regarding disaster responses.

### » **Emergency management challenges during wildfire season | Global Winnipeg**

Kathy Valentino discussed the state of wildfires across Manitoba and FCM's calls for a coordinated approach among all orders of government to better adapt to emergency disasters.

### » **Humboldt, George Gordon First Nation join CEDI program | MBC Radio**

The city of Humboldt, SK and the George Gordon First Nation have announced their participation in the Community Economic Development Initiative, a program delivered by FCM and the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers. They are one of eight partnerships across the country to embark on this three-year First Nation–municipal collaboration program.

### » **Federal government assumes control of Clinton Creek remediation in the Yukon | CBC News**

The federal government is undertaking remediation work at the closed Clinton asbestos mine, close to Dawson City, Yukon. The government's goal is to close the site fully by 2036.

### » **Toronto study argues for getting Canadian mass transit costs back on track | Daily Commercial News**

A recent study by the University of Toronto's School of Cities reveals that the cost of building new transit infrastructure in Canada has increased at a rate far beyond

inflation. FCM's Vice-President Tim Tierney says FCM wants "stable, long-term federal investments," such as the Permanent Public Transit Fund.

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» **Canada 'disappointed' by Trump boosting tariffs to 35%, says Carney | CBC News**

Prime Minister Mark Carney released a statement on Friday, August 1, saying he was "disappointed" following U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order increasing tariffs on Canadian goods that aren't included in the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement to 35 percent.

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» **Federal appeal court rules in favour of Cold Lake in fighter base tax dispute | CBC News**

The Federal Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the City of Cold Lake, Alberta, over the fact that the federal government undervalued the 4 Wing Cold Lake, Canada's busiest fighter base. FCM intervened at the Federal Court of Appeal on the side of the city.

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## RESOURCES

### **Infrastructure and transportation: Strengthening and connecting Rural Canada**

Essential assets like roads, bridges, potable water and wastewater systems, ports and airports enable the flow of goods, connect remote regions to urban centres and support local economies. However, rural municipalities, often constrained by limited fiscal resources, face significant challenges in maintaining and modernizing their infrastructure.

Our report, *The future of rural Canada*, highlights the need for a new municipal fiscal framework and a dedicated federal program to support rural municipal infrastructure. It also recommends expanding trade and export opportunities, improving passenger bus and rail connections and planning for the next generation of rural infrastructure.

» **READ THE REPORT**

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### **Waste less, earn more: Funding available now**

With long winters and high heating needs, your communities can benefit from GMF's Organic Waste-to-Energy funding. Turn food scraps, biosolids and agricultural byproducts into clean energy and valuable soil products. Cut costs, support energy independence and build local resilience. From assessments to implementation, we'll help you turn waste into opportunity.

» **LEARN MORE**

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### **Funding for equitable tree planting projects**

Equitable access to the benefits of trees is critical. If your municipality is planning for a tree planting project that is inclusive and benefits your communities, you can access up to \$10M to plant the right trees in the right places, ensuring they have the most impact. Our funding, which is open until September 18, supports ambitious and equitable planting projects in communities of all sizes, including small, northern and remote communities.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

## Applications now open: Funding and support for GMF’s safe and active school routes

GMF is now accepting applications for its Safe and Active School Routes accelerator initiative—a limited-time funding and learning opportunity to help Canadian communities improve school travel. Eligible communities can apply for up to \$125,000 (covering 50–80% of eligible project costs) for quick-build solutions like upgraded sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, bike lanes, lighting and more.

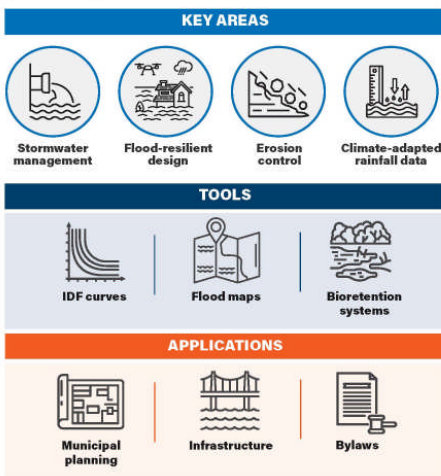
Participants will also join a national peer learning cohort—a valuable chance to connect with other communities and receive expert guidance. Applications are open until October 17.

» [APPLY NOW](#)

## CORPORATE PARTNER



### CSA Group standards for improved flood resilience



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### Helping communities improve their flood resilience

CSA Group standards help communities reduce flood risks through guidelines for stormwater management, flood-resilient design, erosion control, flood mapping, and climate-adapted rainfall data. They help support the planning, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure using tools like rainfall intensity, duration, and frequency (IDF) curves and bioretention systems. Municipalities can integrate CSA Group standards into development plans and reference them in bylaws to build safer, more resilient communities.

» [USE CSA GROUP STANDARDS TO REDUCE FLOOD RISKS](#)



## Unlock the Power of Your Visitor Economy

Did you know that as municipalities you can elevate your visitor economies by collaborating with your local destination marketing organizations and regional tourism advocacy groups? Aligning strategies and co-developing tourism initiatives help attract more visitors, foster local pride, and drive economic growth. Check out the new destination development tool kits for these essential resources and tips to empower your community through tourism development.

» [DOWNLOAD OUR DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT TOOL KITS](#)

## 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:



**July 30:** As wildfires continue in the Prairies, FCM's 2nd VP [@valentinokathy](#) joined [@ctvwinnipeg](#) to share how her city of Thompson is coping.

<https://t.co/LXGRGm1RHV>

**Aug 1:** More tariffs will only hurt communities on both sides of the border. While a deal was not reached between Canada and the U.S. administration today, FCM remains committed to working across orders of government to support Canadian communities

**Aug 7:** Through these challenging times, ties between local leaders on both sides of the border have never been stronger—or more important.

FCM will continue standing up for [#CDNMuni](#) to ensure a stronger, more resilient future for Canadian

In Thompson and across the country, all orders of government need to be at the table for effective disaster response and climate resilience efforts—and work together to find long-lasting solutions. [#CDNMuni](#) [#cdnpoli](#)

through this challenging time.

We all want the same things: to get Canadians to the other side of this trade war stronger, and to build a more resilient national economy.

We must work shoulder to shoulder across all orders of government to respond to these economic challenges. That includes diversifying our trading relationships, investing in municipal trade-enabling infrastructure, and procuring Made in Canada goods and materials.

A stronger, more resilient future for Canada starts in our hometowns. FCM will continue to advocate for local voices and priorities in a concerted Team Canada approach to this dispute—because Canada is at its best when we work together. [#CDNMuni](#) [#cdnpoli](#)

communities. We're getting through the storm of this trade war together—because that's what we do. [#CDNMuni](#) [#cdnpoli](#)

» [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



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