

Karine Keys

From: FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>
Sent: August 25, 2025 3:06 PM
To: Karine Keys
Subject: FCM Voice: Collective webinar | Red Tape Review | City of Cold Lake's PILT case | and more

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August 25, 2025



FCM VOICE
Canada's voice of local government



Collective webinar: Explore safe and sustainable railway operations

FCM's Collective webinar series is 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.

The Prairies have endured an exceptionally difficult wildfire season this year. Rural communities particularly have struggled due to lack of access to necessary resources. Learn more 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](#)

NEWS

FCM participates in the federal government's Red Tape Review

FCM welcomes the opportunity to share municipal perspectives in the federal government's Red Tape Review process. As recipients of federal grants, municipalities face duplicative applications and repetitive reporting that can hinder productivity and growth.

To address these challenges, FCM recommends a single-window approach for application-based funding across all federal departments and a shift toward allocation-based funding models. The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) offers a proven example: it delivers direct, predictable and flexible funding for a wide range of capital projects without unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles.

FCM encourages the federal government to build on the CCBF's success to create efficient, streamlined funding systems that support growth and reduce red tape.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

FCM welcomes ruling supporting municipal fairness in PILT framework

FCM welcomes the Federal Court of Appeal's recent decision in the City of Cold Lake's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) case as an affirmation of the role municipalities play in shaping fair federal fiscal frameworks.

The City of Cold Lake contested the federal government's valuation of land at the 4 Wing Cold Lake military base in Alberta, arguing that the method used did not accurately reflect the property's true worth. FCM intervened in the appeal to support Cold Lake's position and uphold the integrity of the PILT system across the country. The court ultimately found the federal valuation approach to be unreasonable and directed the Minister of Public Services and Procurement to reassess the valuation, considering Cold Lake's concerns and a proper interpretation of the PILT Act.

FCM's involvement was made possible through its Legal Defense Fund, which empowers the organization to participate in precedent-setting federal appeals with national significance for local governments. FCM remains committed to standing with municipalities, using tools like the Legal Defense Fund to ensure their voices are heard and their priorities help shape Canada's future.

» [READ MORE](#)

Supporting inclusive local leadership through negotiation training in Benin

As part of the Partnership for Municipal Innovation—Women in Local Leadership project funded by Global Affairs Canada, a recent workshop brought together women

locally elected officials from Benin's RéFELA network to strengthen their negotiation skills and leadership presence. Hosted by the National Association of Municipalities of Benin, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association shared their experience and expertise during this session to advance women's participation in local governance. The initiative demonstrates how global partnerships and peer learning can contribute to more inclusive and equitable municipal leadership.

FCM IN THE NEWS

» **Housing crisis may get worse, new forecasts show | National Post**

New estimates from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reveal that Canada's housing crisis may worsen before it begins to improve. It shows that the number of housing starts in Canada this year will be about 237,800, down from 245,367 in 2024.

» **Canada affordable housing: Carney wants new projects | CTV News**

Set to be implemented in the fall, Prime Minister Mark Carney's promised new entity to tackle the housing crisis, Build Canada Homes, will prioritize the building of affordable housing and the use of Canadian materials. A preliminary document says the federal government will look at projects that expand the supply of housing run by organizations like co-ops, non-profits and Indigenous housing providers.

» **Natural resources minister Hodgson confident of market for Canadian LNG | CTV News**

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Tim Hodgson is optimistic that there is a market for Canadian liquified natural gas, and that it will be part of the solution to turn Canada into "the world's leading energy superpower." Hodgson said Canadians can "expect to see nation-building projects announced in the early fall."

» **Yorkton seeks grant for tree planting | SaskToday.ca**

The city of Yorkton, SK, is hoping to get an FCM grant to plant more trees across its municipality, which council unanimously supports. The current budget for the tree planting project is estimated at \$100,000. If successful, the GMF Growing Canada's Community Canopies grant would cover a maximum of 50 percent of the project costs.

» **Calgary mayor calls for federal help in fast-tracking Prairie Economic Gateway project | CBC News**

Calgary Mayor Jyoti Gondek is urging the federal government to include Alberta's proposed first rail-served inland port, Prairie Economic Gateway, on its national projects list. The City of Calgary states that the project could generate \$7 billion in economic activity and create over 30,000 jobs.

» Penhold plants in excess of 100 trees for a greener future | Red Deer Advocate

The Town of Penhold, Atlanta, will plant 114 new trees and 142 shrubs in four key sites thanks to a \$175,000 fund from FCM.

RESOURCES

Housing and Homelessness: Critical Issues for Rural Communities

The full economic potential of rural Canada cannot be achieved without adequate and accessible housing. That is why it is essential to provide diverse housing options including rental units, workforce accommodations, and senior-friendly housing.

Rural homelessness has long gone unrecognized. Less visible than in urban centres, it often compels those at risk, or already experiencing homelessness, to move to cities in search of support, resulting in additional pressure on municipal services.

Our report, *The future of rural Canada*, calls for boosting municipal housing efforts more quickly and to advancing housing for Indigenous communities. In addition, it recommends the implementation of a comprehensive plan to end chronic homelessness and the development of a national data strategy to end rural homelessness.

» [READ THE REPORT](#)

Online consultations on the Express Entry system

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is conducting an online survey on economic priorities for category-based selection in Express Entry, the online system used to manage immigration applications from skilled workers. Municipalities play a key role in newcomer settlement and integration. Members are encouraged to reflect on local needs and priorities to share with the IRCC. The survey closes on September 3.

» [TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Community partnerships for equitable local climate action

When it comes to advancing climate action in Canadian municipalities, community partnerships play a pivotal role. Research shows that local governments that use a partnership approach show greater progress toward achieving their climate targets.

The Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership has created a new guide with evidence-based recommendations on building strong community partnerships. With data collected from 55 partners across Canada, this guide is designed to help your local government work collaboratively and effectively with the community to achieve climate targets and equity goals.

» [DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE](#)

Build safer, healthier school routes

It's almost back to school—is your municipality ready? There's still time to apply for funding through GMF's Safe and Active School Routes initiative, designed to help communities improve active transportation routes to school.

Applicants can receive up to \$125,000 in funding (covering 50–80% of eligible costs), along with access to a national peer learning cohort that provides expert insights and shared learning from communities across Canada.

» [APPLY FOR FUNDING TODAY](#)

Find funding for affordable housing in your community

Since its launch five years ago, GMF's Sustainable Affordable Housing (SAH) initiative has allocated nearly \$300 million in grants to support the addition of more than 4,100 energy-efficient affordable housing units across the country.

SAH offers helpful resources, including a list that compiles a wide variety of funding sources to support your next affordable housing project. This list is designed to streamline the search for financial sources at local, provincial and national levels, with support for all stages of the planning process.

» [EXPLORE FUNDING OPTIONS](#)

How to communicate biodiversity benefits of trees

Trees are critical for restoring your community's biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem health. If you want to communicate these benefits in your tree planting project and want to make a strong business case, read our *Communicating tree planting biodiversity benefits* tip sheet. This resource highlights practical examples and strategies that will help you design a tree planting projects that support ecosystem connectivity and habitat restoration.

» [DOWNLOAD THE TIP SHEET](#)

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:



Aug 19: Canada is at a critical point in time. Local leaders in Ontario and across the country are leading the way on some of today's most pressing challenges—and FCM is right there with them, advocating to the federal government for solutions to tariffs, housing, public safety and broader economic challenges.

This is what FCM President [@rebeccaleebly](#) spoke about in Ottawa this morning, where municipal elected officials from across Ontario are gathered for [#AMO2025](#).

[#CDNMuni](#)
[#cdnpoli](#) [#ONMuni](#)
[@AMOPolicy](#)

Aug 20: NEW | FCM has submitted its recommendations for the upcoming federal budget, outlining practical steps to empower communities and strengthen the economy.

From housing and infrastructure to climate resilience and public safety, municipalities are delivering results and stand ready to scale up impact with the federal government to tackle Canada's most pressing challenges.

More:
<https://t.co/swFWixC8XB>

[#CDNMuni](#)
[#cdnpoli](#)
[#Budget2025](#)

Aug 21: The number of Canadians experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including people living in encampments, has quadrupled since 2018, according to Point-in-Time numbers just released by [@HICC_ca](#). The total number of people experiencing homelessness on any given night in Canada has increased by 79% since the last count in 2020-22.

This alarming trend reinforces the need for the Reaching Home budget to increase to \$3.5 billion per year, as recommended by the Parliamentary Budget Officer, to meet the moment. It is also critical that the new Build Canada Homes program immediately makes deeply affordable and non-profit housing a priority.

Find out more:
<https://t.co/vzUrCtkpvt>
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