

Karine Keys

From: FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>
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To: Karine Keys
Subject: FCM Voice: Build Canada Homes | Collective webinar | Funding opportunities | and more

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September 2, 2025



Build Canada Homes must be grounded in local leadership

Parliament is set to resume on September 15, and housing is top of mind in Ottawa. Municipalities are leading the way on housing solutions across the country. If done right, the federal government's new Build Canada Homes initiative can match the ambition of local leadership and move the dial in building 500,000 new homes per year.

Last week, FCM submitted a set of recommendations to help Build Canada Homes succeed, focused on infrastructure funding alignment, affordable housing projects already in the pipeline, speed and predictability, capacity building and more.

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NEWS

Prairies are turning local challenges into climate solutions

Prairie communities across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba drive economic growth while advancing sustainable solutions. From flooding and drought to aging roads and rising costs, they are using smart climate solutions to strengthen resilience.

With support from the Green Municipal Fund (GMF), they are transforming challenges into opportunities: turning landfill gas into clean energy, upgrading aging infrastructure, creating local jobs, cutting costs and boosting their economies and everyday life.

» [DISCOVER GMF'S IMPACT IN THE PRAIRIES](#)

EVENTS

[Collective webinar: Explore safe and sustainable railway operations](#)

Wildfire threats are a growing reality as unprecedented hot, dry conditions persist across Canada. In partnership with CN, our first Collective webinar on September 16 will help community leaders to better understand the strategies and technologies used to ensure safe and sustainable railway operations. Participants will 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](#)

FCM IN THE NEWS

» [More than 3 million homes needed to close gap: PBO | CTV News](#)

Canada needs to build 3.2 million new homes in the next decade to close the housing gap, but isn't on track to do that, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) said in a new analysis. The latest PBO report estimates that the number of new home builds will be higher over the next three years but will gradually return to historical averages thereafter.

» [Ottawa investing in municipalities to strengthen climate resilience | CBC Listen](#)

FCM's President, Rebecca Bligh, talked to CBC Radio about the announcement of \$5.2 million in investments through the Green Municipal Fund to help 70 communities across the country become more climate resilient.

» [Ottawa to back port expansions as part of infrastructure push | Globe and Mail](#)

Prime Minister Mark Carney is signaling that the federal government is moving ahead with campaign commitments to invest in major infrastructure projects. As part of efforts to strengthen domestic shipping hubs and diversify trade partnerships, Carney announced that new investments will be made to support port infrastructure, including

developments at Churchill, Manitoba, the Port of Montreal in Contrecoeur, Quebec, and locations along the East Coast.

» **New financial advantages for political parties force Alberta municipal candidates to weigh options | CBC News**

For the first time, candidates in Calgary and Edmonton will have to decide whether to join a political party. The choice goes beyond ideology — it affects campaign financing. New rules in Alberta give financial advantages to party-affiliated candidates. Still, many mayoral hopefuls are opting to run independently, even if it means less funding.

» **Prince Albert approves site for Saskatchewan's third 'complex needs emergency shelter' | CBC News**

The Saskatchewan government plans to turn another shuttered liquor store into a secure shelter, giving police an alternative to jail cells for intoxicated individuals. Prince Albert is set to host the province's third "complex needs emergency shelter," following the city council's approval to rezone the selected property.

» **Corman Park supporting tree-planting project for Chief Whitecap Park south of Saskatoon | Clark's Crossing Gazette**

The municipality of Corman Park, Saskatchewan, has given its support for a grant from FCM that will enable the planting of approximately 4,000 native trees and shrubs at a park located south of Saskatoon.

RESOURCES

Community safety: a priority for rural Canada

Community safety is a central issue for rural Canada, where funding for vital first response services such as police, paramedics, and firefighters remains a constant concern. Residents of these regions are also voicing growing worries about crime and public safety.

Our report *The future of rural Canada* underscores that the federal government must guarantee support and investment in RCMP contract policing in rural areas, that Canada's bail system must be strengthened, and that all levels of government must work together to expand investments in community-based mental health and substance use care. These measures are essential to reinforce the safety and resilience of rural communities.

» **READ THE REPORT**

Apply for funding to plant new trees

Trees have transformative powers that make your community healthier, more resilient and more liveable. Tap into these benefits by applying for Tree planting funding by

September 18. You can access up to \$10M for a tree planting project and leverage our resources to maximize the impact of your community canopies.

» [APPLY NOW](#)

Build safer, healthier school routes

It's 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](#)

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](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Aug 26: Trade-enabling infrastructure, like the Port of Churchill, is critical to economic success in rural and northern communities.

Aug 27: With more than 3 million new homes needed in the next decade to close the housing gap, it's more important than ever that all orders of government work

Aug 28: The #GoC is responding to Canada's housing challenges with the creation of Build Canada Homes, which will be responsible for building

<https://t.co/HYKSWkb4f9>

FCM is keen to see more federal investment in ports, roads, bridges and more to deliver products to market, strengthen our communities and grow a more resilient national economy.

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together to ensure more homes—and the infrastructure to support them—get built quickly.

<https://t.co/PNSa1nEMKC>

The federal government's new Build Canada Homes is a positive step, and if done right, will be essential in tackling this challenge.

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500,000 new homes per year.

Here's what FCM is calling for from this new entity.

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