

Karine Keys

From: FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>
Sent: September 29, 2025 3:37 PM
To: Karine Keys
Subject: FCM Voice: New Collective webinar | BCMC meets with federal representatives | FCM pushes for strong local infrastructure | and more

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September 29, 2025



NEW Collective webinar: Water systems financing to support housing growth

Municipal water infrastructure is critical for growing communities. Join us for a free webinar on October 22 in partnership with the Canada Infrastructure Bank to learn how their flexible financing helps deliver critical water infrastructure in some of the country's fastest-growing communities.

A house isn't a home without running water, yet local leaders are left with tough choices on how to maintain and expand water and wastewater services while keeping fares and water rates affordable.

» REGISTER NOW

NEWS

FCM's Big City Mayors' Caucus presses federal representatives on biggest priorities

Last Friday, September 26, FCM's Big City Mayors' Caucus held a virtual meeting with Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Gregor Robertson and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance Ryan Turnbull in attendance. Mayors engaged with these senior members of the federal government on the infrastructure investment needed to support new housing builds and a strong economy.

The issue of outdated municipal financing and other key topics including public transit and bail reform were also discussed. With the federal government's first budget approaching in November, Canadian cities and municipalities' most urgent priorities were highlighted in detail by the caucus.

You can't build big without fixing the foundation

FCM has launched a new multimedia campaign spotlighting the vital role municipalities play in major infrastructure projects across the country. Through a series of reels, FCM is driving home the message: you can't build big without strong local infrastructure. Nation-building projects are essential to our national economy, but their success depends on local strength. The first reel is out now—share it with your network and keep an eye out for more!

» [**WATCH THE REEL**](#)

Canada and Cambodia exchange leadership skills for stronger local governance

In Siem Reap, Cambodia, Canada's Honorary Consul, Kristin Schuster, opened the *Communication for Advocacy* workshop for the National League of Local Councils' Women & Children's Committee. The workshop created space for exchange between Canadian and Cambodian colleagues through the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation—Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) project, funded by Global Affairs Canada.

Canadian Councillor Michelle Smibert and members of the committee shared their advocacy experiences and approaches, learning from one another on how women leaders can strengthen their voices and influence decision-makers on issues relating to women and children.

» [**READ MORE**](#)

Building inclusive democracies

As a member of the United Cities and Local Governments Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Collingwood Councillor Kathy Jeffrey, joined the panel, *Reshaping Power for Equality: Women's Political Participation and the Future of Democracy*, taking place in Sweden.

Reflecting on her 19 years in local government, Kathy emphasized that "women bring a distinct and essential voice to leadership" and "lead with community in mind," adding that women often "are the first to see the human impact behind every policy decision."

Her insights underline the importance of supporting women to lead effectively, retaining those already in governance and addressing issues that disproportionately affect women and marginalized communities, ranging from climate resilience to inclusive policy and gender-based violence prevention.

Through initiatives like PMI-WILL, Canadian municipal leaders like Councilor Jeffrey are contributing to a global movement for inclusive governance and equitable leadership.

EVENTS

Free training for building operators to learn about energy efficiency

In the last five years, GMF's Sustainable Affordable Housing (SAH) initiative has helped housing providers develop energy-efficient homes for Canadians. Today, 82 percent of participants are applying SAH knowledge to future projects, strengthening the sector.

The Building Operators Training e-learning course offers customized guidance for custodians, maintenance personnel and building operators from the affordable housing sector who want to learn more about energy efficiency, new technologies and facility retrofits. This free, self-paced training tool demonstrates the basics of energy efficiency, new technologies, and facility retrofits that will save energy and money.

» [REGISTER FOR THE E-COURSE](#)

FCM IN THE NEWS

» [Housing & infrastructure top of mind at FCM's meeting in Cochrane | QR Calgary 770AM](#)

Amid FCM's latest Executive Committee meeting in Cochrane, Alberta, President Rebecca Bligh spoke with Shaye Ganam from QR Calgary about FCM's advocacy efforts this fall, especially on housing and infrastructure. Bligh discussed the Build Canada Homes program, emphasizing the need for more affordable housing and the importance of all orders of government collaborating to address Canada's most pressing issues.

» [Most Canadians think Trump would break any new trade deal: poll | National Post](#)

The federal government has recently started public consultations on the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement, which is scheduled for a joint review next year. A new poll indicates that most Canadians do not expect U.S. President Donald Trump to honour any deal made between his country and ours.

» Mayor Genung showcases Cochrane’s transit, growth challenges to FCM board | CochraneNow

Cochrane Mayor Jeff Genung addressed FCM’s Executive Committee recently in Alberta, where he highlighted the town’s experience in building a public transit system and shared insights on managing rapid community growth.

RESOURCES

GMF’s 2024–25 Annual Report: Turning progress into success stories

Across Canada, communities are proving that local sustainability creates lasting change. In Alberta, 609 homes were upgraded through the Clean Energy Improvement Program, creating local jobs and reducing costs for families. In Quebec City, four “sponge” schools are transforming their yards into green spaces to strengthen resilience against climate impact, supported by GMF’s Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation initiative.

These are examples of the successes made possible by FCM’s Green Municipal Fund. Read the GMF 2024–25 Annual Report to explore this record-setting year and discover how GMF drives progress for Canadians—advancing energy efficiency, clean energy, affordable housing and resilience.

» [READ THE REPORT](#)

Case study: A model of Reconciliation in action

The Township of Georgian Bay, Ontario, returned 95 acres to Moose Deer Point First Nation and protected over 33,000 acres through a bold, award-winning initiative grounded in Reconciliation and sustainability. It also received an honourable mention in FCM’s 2024 Sustainable Communities Awards.

This is more than a success story—it’s a reminder that municipal governments can play a critical role in advancing Reconciliation through respectful partnerships and thoughtful stewardship.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

New research and resources to boost your community’s sustainability

The Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership (N-ZAP) is recruiting 250 Canadian communities to provide feedback on new research and resources designed to help municipalities reach their climate targets while making life better for residents.

By participating as an N-ZAP pilot community, you’ll gain access to cutting-edge research and peer support so that you can build cleaner, healthier communities and a stronger local economy.

» [JOIN THE NETWORK](#)

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:



Sept 20: Canada is in a housing crisis, and it's going to take all orders of government working together to truly tackle it.

FCM President
[@rebeccaleeblich](#)
discusses FCM's priorities and the work already underway with
[@ShayeGanam](#).

Full interview:
<https://t.co/Pj8MmdHYYg>

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

Sept 25: In rural, remote and northern communities across Canada postal service is an integral part of community economic development, growth and sustainability.

Amidst a trade war and affordability crisis, communities across the country are working hard to build local economic resilience and productivity. Community postal services are an important part of that. The decision to permanently end home mail delivery—without input from local governments—is concerning.

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

Sept 26: Earlier today, FCM's Big City Mayors' Caucus connected with Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, [@gregorbertson](#), and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue, [@TurnbullWhitby](#).

On the agenda: bail reform, Build Canada Homes and the importance of streamlined, predictable funding for municipalities to advance Canada's infrastructure and housing goals.

Thank you both for your time.



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